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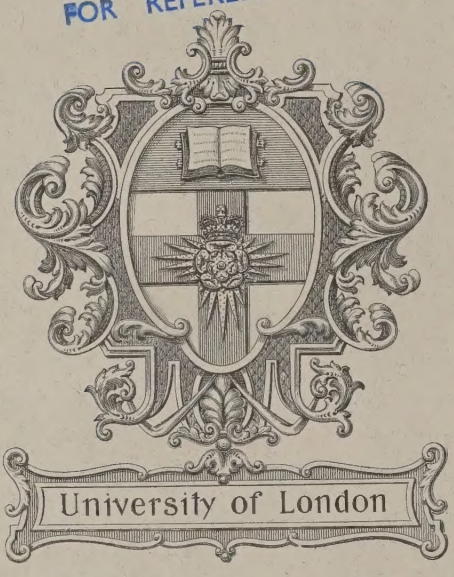

REPORTS

FROM

COMMITTEES:

SEVENTEEN VOLUMES.

—(12.—Part II.)—

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

Session

15 *November* 1837 —— 16 *August* 1838.

VOL. XVIII.—Part II.

1838.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

1837-8.

SEVENTEEN VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

TWELFTH VOLUME, PART II.

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414. } NISTRATION of the RELIEF of the POOR, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act [from SEVENTEENTH to THIRTY-FOURTH REPORTS]; with MINUTES of EVIDENCE, and APPENDICES - - - - - - - - p. 1

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SEVENTEENTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
20 *March* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

20 *March* 1838.

WITNESS.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Martis, 20° *die Martii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines.	Lord Howick.
Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Scrope.
Sir T. Fremantle.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Hodges.	Mr. Freshfield.

MR. FAZAKERLEY IN THE CHAIR.

James Phillips Kay, Esq., M.D., again called in; and further Examined.

J. P. Kay, M. D.

20 March 18

5000. *Chairman.*] HAVE you had occasion to consider much the migration of labourers from the southern to the northern districts of England?—My attention to that subject was first excited before I had any connexion with the Commission, by excursions which I made for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the labourers in the county of Derbyshire and in the north-western parts of Yorkshire. The mines in Derbyshire had extensively failed; a very large portion of the population had been thrown out of employment; the income of the miners had very much diminished, and it was absolutely necessary that a certain portion of the population should remove elsewhere. I found that a large portion of the population had voluntarily removed from the vallies of Derbyshire to the manufacturing districts, and that a disposition existed among several of those remaining to make a similar change in their habitation and employment; also in the valleys in the north-western parts of Yorkshire, it was quite apparent that the population had been usefully thinned by a migration to the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire, particularly in the vallies of the Swale, the Whaif, and other of the moorland vallies, where the means of subsistence are not great, and where the population have apparently outstripped the resources of the soil. Those considerations had been for some time in my mind, before my attention was specially drawn to the subject by the Poor Law Commissioners.

5001. Mr. *Liddell.*] Those latter cases which you have alluded to of the vallies of the Swale and Whaif were manufacturing districts?—They were manufacturing districts in all the upper parts; in the lowest parts of them there are mills built upon the streams which are the seats of manufacture; in the higher portions, nearer to the moorland districts, the occupations of the population are solely agricultural.

5002. *Chairman.*] Do you not think it extremely desirable, if there should be a demand for labour in the manufacturing districts, and if there should appear to be a surplus of labour in the agricultural districts, that facilities should be given for removing the surplus from the agricultural to the manufacturing districts?—Certainly; it appears to me that it is quite impossible to prevent such transfer, for if it did not occur from the agricultural districts in England, it certainly would occur, as it has occurred, from the agricultural districts of Ireland, and particular reference is made to the extent of Irish immigration in the report which I had the honour to present to the Poor Law Commissioners. I state there, that the population in Lancashire have increased in a much greater ratio than the excess of the births over the deaths, that such increase must be attributed solely to immigration, and that very large bodies of Irish labourers have settled in the towns and in the rural districts, who were employed in the inferior branches of the cotton trade, and in the subsidiary employments connected with it.

5003. At what time did the Commissioners issue any regulations respecting the system of migration?—A certain amount of voluntary migration had taken place

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before representations were made to the Poor Law Commissioners of the expediency of placing it under proper regulations; letters had been received from the principal manufacturers of the cotton trade, especially in Lancashire; and certain efforts had been made by benevolent individuals in the south to remove a portion of surplus labour, found in particular parishes, to Lancashire. I was therefore directed to report to the Commissioners, and my report was accompanied with the strongest possible recommendation, that this migration should not be left to be regulated according to the information existing among individuals only, but that a system should be devised for the purpose of restraining the migration from ever exceeding the actual demand. The Commissioners then appointed an agent, and devised forms of contract in order that, in the terms of my report, the Commissioners might "constantly receive information from that agent, which would enable them to check abuses and remedy defects in the system of migration which they might adopt, of which evils they would otherwise have no knowledge; and that he would be chiefly useful in regulating the supply of labour to the demand existing in the cotton district, and providing against the possibility of that supply being improperly used, or overstepping at any moment of legitimate demand." I felt perfectly sure, that if the migration were left to the irregular impulses, either of benevolence or the wants of individuals, it would be attended with considerable pressure upon individuals, and with unfortunate results in those cases; and that it was absolutely impossible to prevent, under the circumstances, some migration occurring, but the legitimate object was so to regulate it as to procure the greatest amount of good with the least amount of evil.

5004. Is not the migration that is entirely voluntary, and is not directed or controlled by any regulations, likely to expose the parties who migrate to inconvenience, when they arrive in the manufacturing districts, and to disappointment occasionally in finding employment?—Certainly, and on that account I have universally urged in the strongest manner upon boards of guardians, and upon meetings of occupiers in the respective districts of Norfolk and Suffolk, that no cases of migration whatsoever should occur, excepting after a contract had been obtained by the migration agent for the individuals, and arrangements had been made for their location in a proper cottage, and a proper outfit had been provided, both for their wants upon their journey and for their wants when they settled in the district; I have to the last degree deprecated that migration should occur under any other circumstances than those advised by the Commissioners.

5005. Migration did occur to some extent voluntarily, did it not, from Norfolk and Suffolk before you gave that advice?—Certainly it had occurred voluntarily; I particularly remember one parish on the borders of Essex, where a clergyman who is connected with one of the most influential county families in Lancashire, from whom, I believe, he had received information concerning the extraordinary demand for labour in the cotton district, used great exertions to procure the migration of labourers from the parish of which he was minister; and I also am aware that that migration and all similar migrations, though conducted by the most benevolent individuals, have been by no means so successful as the cases of migration which have been conducted through the agency of the Poor Law Commissioners.

5006. Since you have been in Norfolk and Suffolk have you met with any instances, either of individuals who migrated voluntarily, or who migrated subsequently to the regulation of the Commissioners, who have returned disappointed from not finding employment?—Those cases have been chiefly of individuals who migrated without the agency of the Poor Law Commissioners; I am not able to state their exact number, but the passage that I read to the Committee from the report the other day, will show that I anticipated that a certain amount of labourers would be disappointed with the continuous monotonous employment of the north, and that it would prove an insupportable burthen to them, especially as their industry had been impaired by the previously existing system in the south; and I read a letter which showed what those qualities were which interfered with their success in the peculiar and laborious employments of the north.

5007. Since the Commissioners have provided an agent for superintending this migration, and since you have given this advice, which you have described, to the boards of guardians in Norfolk and Suffolk, have you observed that the system of voluntary migration has continued?—There have been, I believe, instances in which, on the responsibility of individuals, that system has been resorted to; but

I believe

I believe that, in the great majority of instances, the agent of the Poor Law Commissioners has been the means by which the migration has been conducted.

5008. Do you believe that the migration from the districts under your superintendence is now conducted under the direction of the migration agent, or that it takes place voluntarily?—Recently we have not had any migration; but if it occurred now, it would occur, and has occurred for a considerable time past, solely through the migration agent. I may be permitted to observe that the instances of voluntary migration, to which I have alluded in the north, are by no means the only instances, and I am anxious to refer to the report of Mr. George Cornewall Lewis, respecting the migration which has occurred in Scotland, under the free circulation of labour in Scotland: Mr. Lewis observes, "In Scotland the circulation of labour has not been impeded by an ill-administered system of poor laws, and there appears to have been an influx from all quarters into the large towns. 'A large part of the population of Glasgow,' says Mr. Tait, 'consists of Scotch from the Lowlands. Taking Glasgow as the centre, there are persons who have come to it from all sides, within a circuit of 60 miles. My father originally came from the Lothians, and had been a country farmer; he was driven out by the improvements in farming, became a mechanic, and settled in Glasgow. Most of my acquaintances either were born in the country, or their parents came directly from the country. When the extinction of small farms took place, and the cotters were driven in from their agricultural and pastoral employments, they first collected in villages, and then gradually inclined to the large towns, especially to Glasgow, from the Lothians. In my opinion, the population of Glasgow may be divided into five parts, of which the native inhabitants would be one-fifth, the Lowlanders two-fifths, the Highlanders one-fifth, and the Irish one-fifth. There are few persons you meet with in Glasgow who can say that their fathers were born in the town.' If, therefore, there has been, and is, in Scotland, a perfectly free circulation of labour, the Irish emigration into the Lowlands, so far as it has not displaced the native labourers, can only have been owing to the inadequacy of the population to supply the demand for labour. So far as it has displaced the native population, as in Wigtonshire and Kirkcudbrightshire, where the labourers of the place have, in a great measure, migrated, abandoning the country to the Irish, it has arisen from the willingness of the Irish to accept lower wages, and to acquiesce in a lower standard of existence than the native working classes. The south-western angle of Scotland is the only part of Great Britain in which the Irish have spread beyond the towns, and have settled over the face of the country as agricultural labourers. In England the Irish labourers have scarcely spread beyond the towns, and in these they, for the most part, work concurrently with the natives at different kinds of coarse labour. Nevertheless there are some branches of industry, which in some towns they have nearly monopolized, as that of serving masons and bricklayers in Liverpool and Manchester,"—and so on.

5009. Mr. *Liddell.*] You have stated that the migrations of labourers have taken place under the agency of the Poor Law Commissioners; supposing there was not a board of Poor Law Commissioners, would there be any difficulty in boards of guardians communicating with each other, and regulating the migration in the same way as it has been done by the Poor Law Commissioners?—There would be a great difficulty, because, of necessity, there must be a central agent, and that agency could not well be created by boards of guardians; I do not see how boards of guardians can unite for the purpose of electing an agent, or of employing one single agent; it appears to me that great facilities have been afforded by the Poor Law Commissioners for the right regulation of migration.

5010. Boards of guardians would know, at least, cases where there was a surplus of labour in their own vicinity?—Certainly.

5011. They might also acquire information as to other parts of the kingdom where there was a demand for labour?—Certainly.

5012. In such cases, then, it does not appear very difficult that the boards of guardians should make arrangements with parties to facilitate the migration of labourers from one part of the kingdom to another?—Certainly not; but the information derived by a board of guardians is probably less likely to be minutely accurate, and their power of appointing a proper agent and of attending to all the minute details affecting the well-being of the class migrating does not appear to me to be so great as that of the Poor Law Commissioners.

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5013. Nevertheless, though the machinery might not be so perfect, it would be a great improvement upon the system of voluntary migration, with all the uncertainty to which it was exposed?—Certainly.

5014. Mr. *Baines.*] Must there not have been a great deal of voluntary migration for many years into all the manufacturing districts, as the population of the manufacturing districts has increased so much beyond the ratio of increase which would take place in the regular increase of population?—Certainly.

5015. Do you not suppose that, generally, there has been a self-regulating principle in that way by persons who have migrated to Manchester, for instance, from Ireland, communicating with their friends in Ireland, and representing to them what was the situation of the persons who had so migrated, and what was the prospect of employment for those that might follow?—Certainly; but I am perfectly aware, and I am supported in that belief by the very able report of Mr. George Cornewall Lewis on the migration of the Irish, that the Irish coming over in that way, though they have been supported by the charity of their relatives and friends settled in the district, to a considerable extent, have encountered, seeing that their migration was voluntary, a good deal of unnecessary privation in the first instance.

5016. With respect to the board of guardians taking upon themselves the office of migration agents, would it not be attended with considerable difficulty in this way, that their other functions occupy as much of their leisure as they can very well appropriate to the purposes of their official duties; and would not a person resident in the district, who was particularly charged with that duty, be more likely to attend to the business than persons who might take it up accidentally, like the boards of guardians?—Certainly; the appointment of an agent is very desirable, because he is constantly obtaining information and acquiring skill in making and superintending the different arrangements.

5017. Does he keep up a correspondence between the manufacturers and others in the place where he is stationed, with the boards of guardians at a distance, from which migrants may come?—Certainly.

5018. Therefore there is a kind of communication which enables those who are wanting work to know where the work is to be found, and which enables those who are wanting workmen to know where the labourers are to be found?—Certainly; and which insures, by means of contracts, that the labourers shall have for a considerable period work, and that they shall not be stimulated by motives of enterprise to encounter risks which are undesirable in their station of life.

5019. And that arrangement brings together two parties wanting each other, the one the party who wants labour, and the other the party who wants labourers?—Certainly.

5020. Do you happen to know whether there has been any complaint on the part of the labouring classes in the manufacturing districts, of those parties arriving in too large numbers, so as to absorb their labour, and to deprive them of the employment that they would have obtained if it had not been for the migration system?—I believe there may have been such complaints; I noticed in my report the great desirableness of a change in the occupation, particularly of the hand-loom weavers. I believe myself that the immigration of the Irish has been among the causes with the introduction of the power-loom, of the depression of that particular branch of trade; but I noticed in that report that the tendency of the hand-loom weavers to change their occupation, had been far less than the tendency of the Irish to change their districts; the passage occurs in page 309: "Nevertheless the tendency among the hand-loom weavers to change their occupation, was at no period between 1811 and 1821, so strong as to prevent the immigration of 8,800 persons annually into Lancashire; and the tendency to migrate to Lancashire from other counties, and from Ireland, has been stronger in 17,000 persons in every year, of the period intervening between the years 1821 and 1831, than the tendency among the hand-loom weavers to accept factory occupation within the same period; and as the wages of the hand-loom weavers are better now than they were during any part of this last-mentioned period, and the wages of mill hands have not advanced, it is apparent, that as far as the incentive of wages is concerned, the inducement among the weavers to change their employment is now less than it has been. These circumstances afford no reason for anticipating an increased inclination to enter the factories on the part of the weaving population, so as materially to disturb the relation of the numbers consenting

consenting to such a change, with the numbers migrating to the county in the future as compared with the past."

5021. Have the persons who have come from the agricultural districts into the manufacturing districts, been in any way persecuted by the persons whose work they might be supposed to take?—I do not think they have; and all the early accounts were, that they were received with great cordiality by the mechanics; but on that subject my information must of necessity not be so precise as that of Mr. Muggeridge.

5022. *Chairman.*] With regard to the relieving officers in your district, how frequently do they go into parishes for the purpose of administering relief?—It has been my wish, that as the relieving officers' duties have diminished in certain respects, their visits to the parishes should be made more frequent; and with that view I addressed a circular to the various boards of guardians during the last summer, urging that the visits of the relieving officers to the respective parishes of their districts should be more frequently made; and in certain boards of guardians now, a plan is adopted which I think ought to become universal, and which I intend to encourage to the utmost extent, that the relieving officers should keep a diary of their visits, and state therein what cottages of the poor they have visited, and what have been their engagements during the day. In the Bosmere and Claydon Union a journal of that kind has been kept for one quarter; and upon an inspection of it I found that the system of paying the poor at the station had been abandoned, and that the poor were all paid in their own cottages, and visited from week to week in their own cottages, at least once, and a great number of them twice, in the week.

5023. Does the relieving officer produce that diary at the weekly meetings of the board?—He does.

5024. Are the guardians in the habit of inspecting it?—Certainly; and I have communicated the plan to several of the unions, with very strong recommendations that it should be adopted in them; and I am aware that it has been adopted in three or four unions, and is very likely to spread to the rest.

5025. The relieving officer goes, at least once a week, to every parish?—Certainly, at least once a week to every parish; recently the attention of the board of guardians has been called to the propriety of the relieving officers visiting the parishes more than once a week. I cannot say that in every instance that has been done, and I know in some unions it has not been done, but I hope that in the course of this summer I shall be able to make arrangements for the relieving officers visiting the parishes twice a week.

5026. That must depend upon the population of the parish?—It must, and the extent of the progress made in the working of the law. I may state that in some parishes the population is so exceedingly small, and the paupers are so very few in number, that there may be, and I believe are, cases in which a couple of parishes are united for the relieving officers' duties, and are accounted one parish.

5027. What do you imagine to be the population of the parishes so united?—From 100 to 200, with perhaps a dozen paupers.

5028. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] In the unions of which you are speaking, is relief in kind permitted?—It is, to able-bodied males and females; whenever an aged person or a sick person desires relief in kind, that is permitted; but in the cases of the aged and sick it is more common to give the larger amount in money.

5029. Do you give any in kind?—Whenever it is desired; in some unions relief is given in kind, and to those classes.

5030. When the relieving officer goes round to make his weekly payments, is he accompanied by the baker and his cart?—I have recommended to boards of guardians during the last summer, that, seeing that the number of able-bodied paupers had diminished considerably, either the number of stations should be increased, if it were the intention of the boards of guardians to give relief in kind to the remaining classes of paupers, or that the plan of sending the baker's cart round to the various parishes should be adopted, which I consider preferable to the plan of having stations; I cannot say that it has been extensively adopted in my district, though I think it preferable in every case, and I recommended it by a circular; but I believe the reason why it has not been adopted, is that the majority of the boards of guardians prefer relieving the paupers to a considerable extent in money, and that they do not therefore see the necessity for adopting a different arrangement from that which has obtained.

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5031. In those parishes where it is the practice for the baker's cart to proceed, would not inconvenience be found in relieving the paupers at their own houses?—I think that the money might be paid at the house of the pauper, and a ticket given to procure the flour or bread from the parish; but probably it would be more convenient to those who had any physical disability, because the road would go through a large portion of the parish, and they might meet the cart at different parts of the road, so as to diminish the extent that they had to travel.

5032. *Chairman.*] But where a population is collected in a parish where the distance is not considerable, unless in case of sickness or infirmity, it would not be any great inconvenience to the pauper meeting the relieving officer at an appointed place?—My only consideration was, that I thought as the able-bodied did not receive relief, if relief in kind were given, greater facilities should be afforded for the remaining classes obtaining that relief.

5033. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Do you not think it necessary that the relieving officer should visit each parish twice or thrice a week?—I consider it very desirable, if not necessary, and I have great confidence that such arrangement will be adopted extensively, if not universally, this summer, in the unions of Norfolk and Suffolk.

5034. Would not that have the effect of obviating, in most cases, the necessity of poor persons desiring to obtain relief going in search of the relieving officer before they applied to the board?—I think the cases in which poor persons do go in search of the relieving officer are not numerous; I think the more common case is, that they speak to the relieving officer when he is in the parish.

5035. If he comes only once a week to the parish, and he is occupied during that period in making payments, his time is limited, and he is unable to give that attention to the cases which he otherwise would, is he not?—He is; and I should prefer on that account that he should visit the parish twice a week.

5036. *Chairman.*] Do you specify the day on which he is to go to the parish?—It is known, and the time is fixed, and he is enjoined to keep it.

5037. Do you require that he should remain a particular time in the parish, so as to be within the reach of applicants?—I think the common case is, to settle the route and fix the time; I do not know whether the regulations are so precise as to require that he should remain a stated period in the parish.

5038. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Are you aware that it has been suggested that the time at which the relieving officer should visit the parish ought not to be specified, in order that he might have an opportunity of ascertaining what the situation of the poor persons is, by coming upon them when they are not prepared for it?—I think that the suggestion, if made, must have reference to his visits of inquiry, not his visits of relief.

5039. His visits of relief, you think, ought to be fixed to a certain day?—Yes.

5040. Mr. *Baines.*] Does the relieving officer visit every family on his weekly visits?—By no means; I stated in particular unions that such a plan was adopted, and I hoped that it would spread, because it appeared to me desirable that those visits should be made, on every account.

5041. You mean a weekly visit to every family?—It has been made, in the Bosmere and Claydon Union, to every family.

5042. What has been the effect of that course?—I think the effect has been that the board has obtained more information concerning the condition of the various families; and I think that it is also a plan which the poorer classes themselves prefer.

5043. And therefore you would recommend it for general adoption?—Yes.

5044. Mr. *Scrope.*] In case you renounce the plan of the relieving officer calling at particular stations, how would the paupers who are not on the poor list, but who are desirous of relief, have an opportunity of applying to them?— Of course he would have some station in the parish at which to receive applications.

5045. At which he would call on some particular day?—Certainly.

5046. *Chairman.*] You were in Norfolk and Suffolk probably during the last frost?—I was.

5047. Were the applications very numerous for relief during the frost?—They varied in different unions; in several unions I do not think that they were much more numerous than the ordinary number of applications; but they bore no proportion to the number that I myself expected might apply, and chiefly, I think, owing to the manner in which the boards of guardians decided to administer relief.

5048. Were the workhouses generally full?—By no means.

5049. Did many of the able-bodied come into the workhouse?—The number in the workhouses increased during the period of the frost, and on the whole considerably, but, in some unions, I am aware that the number that came into the workhouses was small.

5050. Of those who did not come into the workhouse, did you understand, from what passed at the board of guardians, that the able-bodied obtained employment?—The letters that I have already read to the Committee are the sources of my information, and they convey to me strong assurances that the able-bodied who did not accept relief, obtained employment.

5051. What was the nature of that employment?—I believe a certain amount of employment, particularly feeding of cattle and cleaning the yards, and such occupation, is increased at such periods rather than diminished; I do not know that I am able to inform the Committee all the minute details of the sources of the employment they did obtain; I can only state to the Committee the general assurances which I received from the chairmen of different unions.

5052. Independently of those different assurances, were you in the habit of attending the boards of guardians at this period?—Certainly.

5053. You heard those cases discussed and determined upon at the boards of guardians?—Yes.

5054. And does what passed at the boards of guardians in those discussions and determinations confirm the impression made upon your mind by the letters of the chairmen of the unions?—The general impression of the boards of guardians was, that there would be no difficulty on the part of occupiers, if their interest was made plain to them, in providing employment for the labourers during the snow-storm.

5055. Mr. *Scrope.*] Are you of opinion that mendicancy has increased in your district since the passing of the new Poor Law?—I hold quite a contrary opinion.

5056. Is it the fact, that mendicants travel through the country, and apply to the farm-houses and other houses so as to become a nuisance?—I think there are no counties in England in which there is less mendicancy than in Norfolk and Suffolk; and my inquiries lead me to believe that it chiefly occurs on the roads to the outports, on the line between Lynn and Bury and Cambridge, and also on the roads from Yarmouth and Norwich to Ipswich.

5057. Then your attention has not been called to the propriety of adopting some system by which mendicancy should be suppressed, it being without any excuse under a good system of poor law?—In one union, I believe, the resolutions recommended by the Marquis of Salisbury have been adopted, without any recommendation from myself; but I have not seen any cause for interference in the matter; I do not think that mendicancy extensively exists in Norfolk and Suffolk; I believe it is chiefly confined to the district I have described.

5058. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] I understood you to say, that you had attended the sittings of the boards of guardians; is that so?—Certainly.

5059. Are you of opinion that the relief given by the board to the several applicants, as they presented themselves, has been administered upon a principle which was sufficient to afford them adequate relief?—I think that, inasmuch as opinions upon different cases differ among boards of guardians, I may have seen cases in which I thought the relief ought to have been more, and in which I differed from the board of guardians; but if the question has a general reference, I think the amount of relief to the aged and infirm has increased in my district since the operation of the new Poor Law, and particularly to the sick. The table which I presented to the Committee at its last sitting, would show that the amount of relief to the sick had increased; and I am also in possession of comparative statements of the amount of relief given to the aged, which lead me to believe that the amount of relief to the aged has increased.

5060. Then, you are not prepared to say that any inconvenience has been experienced by boards of guardians acting upon too harsh a principle with reference to the administration of out-door relief?—Generally, I believe that the boards of guardians administer out-door relief with care, and that discretion may be safely confided to them.

5061. But, if the board of guardians should feel it necessary to act upon a harsh principle, is there any appeal for the poor, or any relief afforded under the operation of the present law?—The discretion must be entrusted somewhere, and

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I do not think that the discretion can be entrusted anywhere better than to a large body, not representing individual interests, but representing general interests, and practically acquainted with the habits and wants of the poorer classes, and which body comprises also persons of great intelligence of the upper classes.

5062. Have you ever observed the board of guardians acting upon this principle, to give to the applicants for out-door relief an insufficient maintenance, for the purpose of forcing them to come into the house, or rather, from knowing their unwillingness to accept the workhouse, to put up with an inadequate allowance?—I do not know that I have ever directly known that; I have known this, that when dissatisfaction has been expressed by an individual with the amount of relief afforded, the board of guardians has told him that he had always the alternative of accepting the workhouse.

5063. But the amount of relief given has been such as you would consider, under the circumstances, adequate?—I stated before, that there may be cases in which I have differed from the boards of guardians, not having authority to interfere in particular cases. I do not remember particular cases of that kind; but, confining myself to general instances, I do believe the boards of guardians exercise their discretion mildly.

5064. Mr. *Wakley*.] Will you be kind enough to state to the Committee what is the nature of the medical arrangements which you have made in the unions in Norfolk and Suffolk?—In Norfolk and Suffolk, the boards of guardians have, with only one or two exceptions, decided to give fixed salaries to the medical officers, bearing commonly a certain proportion to the population, that is, however, not a fixed proportion; and have advertised in the local papers the salaries and the districts into which the union was divided for the purposes of medical relief; they have received the offers of medical gentlemen for the office of medical officers to the union, and have elected from among the number of applicants those whom they thought most desirable; it has also been almost universally the rule to permit the medical officers so elected to provide themselves, with the approbation of the board of guardians, with whatever subsidiary assistance among their professional friends they might deem requisite for the right discharge of their duties; and that course has been adopted because it was exceedingly difficult for the boards of guardians, or for the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, to adapt the districts to the convenience of each medical gentleman in the district, without appearing to make districts for particular medical gentlemen. It has, therefore, been thought more expedient that those arrangements by which the convenience of the medical officers would be promoted, should be left to be settled among themselves, subject to the approbation of the boards of guardians.

5065. Have any instructions been sent from the Poor Law Commissioners to the boards of guardians upon that subject?—I do not know that any direct instructions have been at any period sent from the Poor Law Commissioners.

5066. Do you consider that there is any provision in the Act of Parliament which empowers the Commissioners to allow the medical men with whom they make their contracts to sublet the paupers in their district?—If that were positively and distinctly the case, I do not see the provision; but the fact is this, that the board of guardians, upon recommendation from the medical officers after they are elected, immediately re-arrange the districts, and they assume a new form; it is never done without the approbation of the board of guardians, and that makes it their act, and not the act of the medical officers.

5067. What is the nature of the qualification demanded of the medical practitioners?—The qualification is that understood to be demanded in the provision of the Poor Law Amendment Act, that the person elected shall be duly qualified by law, that is, either that he shall be a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Company, or that he shall have been in practice previously to the passing of the Apothecaries' Act, or be a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, or a Physician, in which case he cannot dispense his own medicines, without rendering himself liable to prosecutions at law.

5068. Do you consider a member of the College of Surgeons licensed to practise as a medical man?—Not licensed to dispense his own medicines; but the fact is, that the great majority of the gentlemen who are members of the Royal College of Surgeons are also licentiates of the Apothecaries' Company.

5069. Does not the greater part of the duty which a medical man has to exercise in the unions partake of the medical character, and not of the surgical?—Certainly

Certainly; the great majority of the cases in practice are cases which formerly were cases allotted to physicians as distinguished from surgeons.

5070. Have you any graduates of the Scotch universities in your unions?—I think there may be one or two, but exceedingly few, the great majority being, I believe, members of the Royal College of Surgeons of London.

5071. Are you aware that you have any who are not licentiates of the Apothecaries' Company?—I do not know that there is any single person not a member of the Apothecaries' Company, unless he were in practice previously to the passing of the Apothecaries' Act on August 1, 1815.

5072. Do you think that the medical arrrangements are satisfactory to the medical practitioners, and also to the poor?—I believe that in arrangements of that kind a certain amount of dissatisfaction must occur; but I think that to a large extent the present arrangements are more satisfactory than the arrangements made previously to the formation of the unions with the parishes and incorporations.

5073. Are the sums now paid in the aggregate, for medical relief, greater than they were before the Poor Law Amendment Act came into operation?—The Committee are aware that the district of Norfolk and Suffolk was at the time that I entered it, peculiar in this respect; that it contained numerous incorporations under local Acts, resembling very much in their character the unions under the Poor Law Amendment Act; those incorporations adopted a similar practice in most respects in engaging medical officers, to that which is adopted under the new unions; and I find that the salaries given in the new unions and in many of the incorporations, now under the Commissioners' regulations, bear nearly the same relation to the population that the salaries given in the old incorporations did. For example, I find in the Mitford and Launditch incorporation, in Norfolk, the ratio of salary to the population was 5*d.* to each inhabitant; in the Mitford and Launditch Union, the proportion of the salary to the population was 4½ *d.*: in the Stow incorporation, the proportion of the salary to the population under the incorporation was 4¾ *d.*; the proportion of the salary, under the union, to the population is 4½ *d.*: in the Loddon and Clavering incorporation, the proportion of the salary to the population was 2¾*d.*; in the new union it is 3½ *d.*: in the Wangford incorporation, the proportion of the salary to the population was 2¾*d.*; in the new union it is 3 *d.*: in East and West Flegg incorporation, the proportion of the salary to the population was 2½ *d.*; in the new union, under the Poor Law Commissioners' regulations, it is 3¼ *d.*: in the Colnies and Carlford incorporation, the salary was 3¾ *d.* to the population; in the Woodbridge Union, in which the old incorporation of Colnies and Carlford is now included, the salary to the population was 4¼ *d.* to each person: in Forehoe incorporation, upon a series of years, the salary to the population bore a proportion of 2¼*d.*, but if my memory serve me rightly, upon which I do not intend to make a positive statement to the Committee, the salary at the period when the incorporation was brought under the the regulations of the Commissioners was only ⅓d of what is here stated: in the Forehoe hundred the salary now bears a proportion of 3*d.* to the population: in Great Yarmouth parish the salary was ¾*d.* per head, upon the old management; under the present management in Great Yarmouth parish the salary is 1 ¼*d.*: in the Tunstead and Happing incorporation, the salary was 2¾ *d.*; in the Tunstead and Happing hundred under the Commissioners' regulations, the salary bears the proportion of 3*d.* per head to the population; in the Bosmere and Claydon incorporation the salary was at the proportion of 4½*d.*; in the Bosmere and Claydon Union it is 4½*d.* per head of the population.—[*The Witness delivered in the Table.—Vide* Appendix, No. 1.]—In attempting to form some estimate of the basis upon which the arrangements for medical relief in Norfolk and Suffolk should be conducted, particular reference was made to the experience which those incorporations had of the method of regulating relief to the poor, and that many of them were exceedingly ill managed, and the medical relief, amongst other circumstances, was very ill regulated; still it formed almost the only basis upon which we could ground an estimate of what proportion the salary in a union ought to bear to the population. It will be perceived that, in those cases, no great difference was made in that proportion, and I believe the salaries in these particular cases, where it rises up to 4½*d.* or 3½*d.*, are about an average of the salaries which were given in the new unions throughout the country; but there has been a great diminution of the extent of duty discharged by the medical officers in the new unions, as compared with the duties discharged under the incorporations.

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5074. Do you consider the duties to be much less in the new unions?—Yes.

5075. In the tables you have given in, is there, upon the whole, an increase, as compared with the former charge?—In certain cases there is an increase.

5076. Have you taken the average?—I have not; but I may state that those cases in which there is an increase are cases of incorporations the best managed. In certain of the incorporations there was very little able-bodied pauperism, and the particular cases in which there is an increase are cases of that kind which are to be taken as exceptions to the general rule in Norfolk and Suffolk.

5077. Do your tables refer to the same period of time, under the old incorporation and the new?—They refer to annual periods.

5078. Did you take the last year previously to the formation of the unions, and the first year of the unions?—These returns were obtained in answer to a circular which I addressed to the clerks of the unions, finding that I had lost my notes, which had been used at an earlier period, and which had been collected for me by individuals connected with the various incorporations; and they do refer, I believe, to the year preceding the formation of the unions, excepting the case of Forehoe hundred, which is an average of certain years, and in the case of Great Yarmouth, which, I believe, also is an average of three years preceding.

5079. Can you state what proportion the pauper population bore to the other part of the population?—I cannot in the old incorporations; I can in the new unions.

5080. Are you able to state to the Committee what proportion the expense for medical attendance has been, with reference to the labouring population exclusively?—I do not think that I could do that, because that would require a new census of the population.

5081. The statement which you have made with reference to the proportion of the expense to the whole population, will not show what is really the duty which the medical practitioner has to perform, because there may be in some districts a very large pauper population, in other districts a very small pauper population; in one case he would have a most severe duty, and in the other a slight duty?—I am aware of the difficulty proposed in the question, and the Committee will perceive that consideration must have been a very formidable difficulty in attempting any estimate whatsoever of what the medical salaries ought to be; and I therefore desire to state to the Committee, that the medical salaries having been very much based upon what was done in the incorporations, my own personal opinion is, that the whole of the existing arrangements must be deemed provisional, subject to such modifications as the experience of the Poor Law Commissioners and the boards of guardians suggest; and, I myself perceive how a certain amount of modification might be admitted, merely as respects the salary for the discharge of the duties of medical officer. All I should wish to state is, that having a duty to discharge to the three parties, the rate-payers, the medical profession, and the poor, it seemed reasonable to take the example of the incorporations, as in the more prominent features, the best ground of proceeding to settle the salaries in the new unions.

5082. In making your arrangements, the Committee would be glad to learn what has been the size of the medical districts which you have apportioned to the medical practitioners?—I can give the most exact information to the Committee upon that subject; but I must remind the Committee that in the majority of the unions, as I have already stated, the districts were not settled by the boards of guardians in the first instance, but they were settled upon such modifications as might occur upon a conference with the medical officers. Those modifications have extensively interfered with the districts that had been formed; the guardians, have thus, especially in the Suffolk unions, reduced the size of the districts materially. I hold in my hand an account of each medical district in Norfolk and Suffolk, I believe in every union, or in the great majority of the unions; the number of parishes attended by each medical officer, who is named in the schedule; the area of each medical officer's district, estimated in English statute acres; the population of each medical officer's districts, as the districts were regulated previously to March 1837, and I believe that no material change has taken place in those districts, though particular modifications may have occurred since that period; and I find that in Suffolk, the average extent of a district is 10,566 statute acres or about four miles square, and that the population is 3,284, on the average; and in Norfolk, the district averages 12,977 statute acres, and the population 3,057, being an area of about four and a-half miles square. There are particular districts, in Norfolk especially, as every

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one who is acquainted with the surface of that country is aware, where there are wide, waste tracts of barren land, that very much interfere with the apportionment of proper districts; there are also other districts, particularly I have reference to one union in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth, where the arrangements are, I believe, perfectly satisfactory, where there is a wide extent of marsh land; and another union, the Downham Union, exhibits a considerable extent of marsh land. In those unions upon the marsh, and fen, and the barren lands, there are very few inhabitants, and of course the medical district is on that account rendered much more extensive than it otherwise would be. Excluding those unions from consideration, the average extent of the districts would be considerably reduced, though the average of the population would not be materially affected.

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[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 2.]

5083. Will you state the highest and lowest population in the two counties?—In casting my eye over the Suffolk medical districts, I do not find that any rural medical district contains a population greater than 6,800, which occurs in only one instance; I find that one town district, Ipswich, contains a population of 6,900.

5084. What is the salary of the medical officer in that district?—I cannot state that.

5085. What is the cost per head in that district?—I cannot tell as respects the particular medical officer's district; I could give information of the salaries respecting an entire union.

5086. Can you state in those unions where the population varies from 3,000 to 4,000, what is generally the amount of salary?—The salary in the unions, in its relation to the population, would perhaps not afford the Committee the best information from which to judge of what the amount of the remuneration is; I am desirous, in order that this question may be settled upon its true basis, to afford the Committee all the information in my power, whether it makes for or against the present arrangements; because I think it is a very important question, and one which can only be finally adjusted by information from all quarters being obtained. I wish to say that I am not prepared to justify the present arrangements, excepting as provisional, and that I expect changes to be made in the arrangements. I will, therefore, with the permission of the Committee, give them the statements which I think are important in the consideration of this subject; first, as respects competency of the medical officers in Norfolk and Suffolk, I am very happy to state to the Committee, that I have received from the chairmen of the various unions confident assurances that most respectable medical gentlemen in the district have accepted appointments; and I find that a very great majority of duly qualified medical practitioners in Norfolk and Suffolk are officers of the unions, with certain exceptions, which I will state to the Committee. Being anxious to obtain information on that subject, I addressed a circular to the clerks of the various unions, requesting that they would acquaint me with the number of medical officers employed by unions; the number of practitioners duly qualified residing in each union, the number of practitioners duly qualified and resident in the union who are medical officers; the number of practitioners duly qualified and resident in the union who are not medical officers, but who reside in the same parish with one of the medical officers; the number of duly qualified medical practitioners who reside in the union, and who are not medical officers, but who do not reside in the same parish with a medical officer; the number of duly qualified practitioners who are medical officers of the union for adjacent parishes, though resident beyond the limits of the union: the results are these, the number of medical officers employed by the unions enumerated in this table is 169; the number of medical practitioners duly qualified, who are resident in the unions, are 222; the number of medical practitioners duly qualified and resident in the union, who are medical officers, 127; the number of medical practitioners duly qualified, resident in the union, and who are not medical officers, but resident in the same parish with one of the medical officers, 78; the number of practitioners duly qualified and resident in the union, who are not medical officers, but who do not reside in the same parish with a medical officer, 17; the number of practitioners duly qualified, who are medical officers for adjacent parishes, who reside beyond the limits of the union, 42; so that the exceptional cases of medical practitioners who are duly qualified and are resident in the union, are the cases chiefly in which those medical practitioners reside in the same

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parish with the medical practitioner who is employed by the union, all other cases of medical officers, with the exception of 17, being employed by the various unions.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 3.]

5087. Have you included in this calculation all who are employed by the medical contractors themselves?—Those are officers of the union, their appointment having in every case received the direct sanction of the board of guardians.

5088. All the sub-agents have received the sanction of the board?—The board of guardians have no cognizance of what the exact nature of the pecuniary arrangement may be, they have only cognizance of the extent of the district, and the qualification of the medical officer.

5089. Do you find that that arrangement has given satisfaction among the the medical men and the poor, viz., the apportionment of the medical men to the population; do you find that the medical men demand that a larger number should be employed?—I do not think there is any great desire generally that a larger number of medical practitioners should be employed; I believe there are medical practitioners in the district who would desire to become officers of unions, and there are one or two unions, which I should desire to avoid mentioning by name, in which, probably, arrangements will be soon made for admitting a larger number of medical practitioners as medical officers of the union.

5090. Do you not consider it extremely desirable that the medical districts should be generally as small as possible?—I think it is desirable, if that can be done without apportioning the district with an especial reference to the interest of individuals, because if arrangements were made with that circumstance forming the most prominent feature of the arrangement, I fear, eventually, however pure the motives of the individuals making them in the first instance might be, that there would be a tendency to favouritism, to the exclusion of persons equally well qualified.

5091. You are aware that the medical districts in Norfolk and Suffolk are smaller than in any other district in the kingdom?—Indeed I do not know what the extent of other medical districts is.

5092. Do you not believe that they are so?—I do not know.

5093. In making them so small, has it not been your desire to place within the reach of the poor person a medical man in all cases of emergency?—I believe the arrangement of permitting the medical men to make subordinate arrangements with the medical practitioners of the union would conduce to that result; and I thought that result desirable.

5094. Consequently the income to each medical practitioner is exceedingly small?—I think that in obtaining the foregoing advantage you must sacrifice the advantage alluded to in the question, to a certain extent, that the medical officer's interest in his duties should be increased by the amount of income which he receives, which however is not a consideration which ought to be lost sight of.

5095. As you are yourself a physician, and you have had considerable experience in the working of the existing medical arrangements, are there any suggestions which you could offer to the Committee for the improvement of the present system?—Certainly there are; the first suggestion I would make is this; I consider the chief defect of the existing arrangement is, that the salaries of the medical officers are apportioned as an establishment charge, according to the averages of the union, and not as a parochial charge bearing any relation to the amount of medical relief in each particular parish; and I do believe that in that way not only is a certain amount of risk and injury to the medical officer encountered, but also there is not, as in other arrangements under the Poor Law Amendment Act, the same direct stimulus to the occupiers to afford the poorer classes the means of obtaining independent medical assistance for themselves, which the other arrangements in the unions appear to me to be especially adapted to obtain; I should therefore say, that if any plan could be adopted by which the expense of the medical attendance should bear a proportion to the number of sick attended in the parish, that such an arrangement would be in every respect a great advantage. I also think that all who are paupers and in actual receipt of out-door relief, should, without the intervention of orders, receive medical assistance, and I would therefore have an arrangement made by which those who are actually in receipt of parochial relief (and that class may now be pretty well determined) should obtain medical assistance without the intervention of an order from any person whatsoever,

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whatsoever, but upon an application and the presentation of a certificate that they were in receipt of parochial relief. I would adopt that arrangement upon this ground, that the greater part of those persons are either infirm in body or in mind, or are aged, and attention to the early stages of disease in all those cases is exceedingly desirable, and I have no doubt that an arrangement by which the medical officers would be called in at the earliest stages of disease, would tend to diminish their duties, and also to promote the efficacy of the medical relief to that class of poor. The first thing, therefore, to be done under that view of the arrangements would be, to make out for a certain period, for half-a-year or a year, the number of persons who might be expected in each parish to be in receipt of out-door relief for that half-year or that year, and then to settle the salary, either at so much per head, or bearing a proportion to the number for the medical officer in the case of each individual parish. This duty would have to be performed by the board of guardians. The arrangements for the admission of cases beyond that class might be subject to various modifications, suggested by experience; that which at present suggests itself to me is this, that the cases of casualty and of sickness occurring among able-bodied labourers and persons not in receipt of out-door relief, should be made the subject of an arrangement at so much per case, which payment, I think, might be founded upon elements which are accessible from various sources of information.

5096. You mean the case system to apply only to those who are not included in the half-yearly list?—Certainly.

5097. Supposing a half-yearly list were made out, as you have described, and the pauper population contained in that list were scattered over such a district as you have described, say four and a half miles square, what sum should you deem to be an adequate compensation to the medical practitioner?—I do not think that I am prepared to make to the Committee any proposition upon that subject. In reflecting upon the principles on which it might be desirable to base the remuneration of medical practitioners, I desire, with great deference, and, at the same time, with some hesitation, to state, that this appears to me to be a reasonable principle—provided it can be ascertained in any way what is the average sum paid by the class of poor out of their own earnings for medical assistance, I cannot believe that it would be proper that the sum paid by the parish or the union should exceed the proportion paid by the independent poor as a class; I do not know that it ought to be lower, but I do not think that it ought to be higher.

5098. Are you not aware that medical practitioners sustain very heavy losses by their attendance upon the labouring population?—I am aware of that, and I am also aware that many of the medical practitioners are (and I may presume to say it with great deference to them as a body) averse to the system of mutual assurances among the poorer classes; but I do think, without reference to the question before the Committee, but merely in reference to my own experience in the profession, that the system of mutual assurance, as applied to medical relief, does afford to the medical profession a larger amount of remuneration than the plan of obtaining from a small portion of the poor payment, and losing it in a great majority of other cases.

5099. Do you find that the profession concur with you in that opinion?—I do not think that they universally do, or that the majority do; but I think that a great portion of the profession does.

5100. Your remarks apply to the medical club system?—I wish to separate any particular system from the consideration of the principle which I submitted to the Committee; I spoke of mutual assurances among the poor.

5101. That is another term for the club-system?—Except that, in the club-system, there has been a certain scale of payment proposed, but which, I am aware, is open to objection, and that the medical club system has reference to particular rules and particular arrangements, all which I wish to separate from the general question of mutual assurance.

5102. Do you not consider that it is vicious in principle, that the board of guardians should interfere relative to the payments that are to be made by independent labourers to medical men?—I have always advised that the contrary course should be pursued; and I have refrained, generally, from asking questions upon the subject of what those arrangements are, because I do think that is a subject which ought to be left to the medical practitioner and the poorer classes.

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5103. Then the Committee are to understand that in the unions of Norfolk and Suffolk, it has not been made a condition with the medical practitioner, before he was allowed to be an officer of the union, that he should admit the independent labourers upon certain terms, into what is called an independent club?—I remember one instance only, in which that was ever proposed, and in that particular instance I interfered, and strongly advised that such a course should not be adopted, believing it to be quite inconsistent with the regulations which ought to obtain with the officers of the union.

5104. In the absence of the interference of any board of guardians, have independent clubs been established?—They have, I believe extensively. But I wish also to inform the Committee, that I have thought that jealousies might be obviated, by not making minute inquiries, and only in cases in which such information has been volunteered to me have I information to furnish the Committee. I believe I have no more right to inquire into such arrangements generally, than I have to inquire into the private business of a medical officer.

5105. Then, with regard to the statistics, you are quite unacquainted with them?—I have with me letters from medical practitioners, who have formed such clubs, giving me the number of their subscribers to such clubs, and furnishing me with an expression of satisfaction at the arrangements, which letters are at the service of the Committee, if they deem it desirable to hear them read.

5106. You may read them?—I have a letter here from a medical officer of the Aylsham Union, in Norfolk, giving me an account of his medical club.—[*The Witness read the same.— Vide* Appendix, No. 4.]—Those are the rules.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 5.]

5107. You are not aware that the board of guardians sanction those rules?—Not at all. I believe that the board of guardians may have encouraged the formation of those clubs, and may have circulated information upon the subject; but there has been no interference of the board in prescribing any set of rules, or in prescribing the terms to be adopted in any club.

5108. *Chairman.*] Has the board of guardians in your district made a subscription to those clubs a condition of receiving medical relief?—In no instance; there was one instance where that was attempted, and I remonstrated against it, and whether it was adopted or not my memory does not enable me to say; if it was, it was against the system, which I have endeavoured to promote, of the perfect abstinence of the board of guardians from interfering in the medical club.

5109. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you any other letter which you wish to read?—I was informed by Mr. Robert Newton Shawe, the chairman of the Woodbridge Union, that Mr. Armstrong, a medical gentleman resident in Melton parish, had some experience of medical clubs, and I wrote him a note requesting him to meet me, in order that, if agreeable, he might communicate to me information, which he did in the following terms:

[*The Witness read the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 6.]

5110. Then the Committee understand distinctly from you that you deprecate all interference of the boards of guardians between medical men and the independent labouring population of the parish?—As respects the agreement or the arrangements made between the independent poor and the medical officers, I think the boards of guardians have no more right to interfere, than with the other patients of the medical officer.

5111. And you are also of opinion, that, if it were possible, the payment of the medical practitioner should bear a strict proportion to the extent of duty that he has to execute?—Certainly; it is with that view alone that I propose to the Committee a modification of the arrangement between the medical officers of unions and the boards of guardians.

5112. In the small medical district which you have described, do the poor find any difficulty in obtaining an order for medical relief?—I will not say that there are not particular instances in Norfolk and Suffolk, in which I should very much wish that the arrangements were better than they are; but the Committee will perceive that the immense extent of duty imposed upon the Assistant-commissioners has prevented, till a recent period, our attending to minute details in every case; I have great confidence that the summer will not pass before all that inconvenience is done away with.

5113. Though

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5113. Though the districts are small, medical relief cannot be obtained in all cases so speedily as you could desire?—There may be particular cases of that kind, and, I believe, are, which are exceptions to the general rule, and which are unavoidable.

5114. Would you not deprecate pressing down the payments of medical men to the lowest sum that can be obtained by contract?—Yes.

5115. Do you not think where that is done that it tends to produce an inferiority of medical attendance, and an inferior description of medicine?—I have always urged, in my district, that the system of contract by tender should not be adopted, because I have thought it desirable that we should have the services of the most respectable medical practitioners; and I have thought that if fixed salaries were offered we might procure that advantage, and that we might run the risk of not procuring that advantage if fixed salaries were not offered; as respects the amount of remuneration given to the medical officers, it appeared to me that it was very difficult, in the first instance, to ascertain the true basis of our proceedings: I believe for the future the principle which I have stated to the Committee ought to be adopted as the basis, and that information ought to be procured in order to settle the amount of that remuneration.

5116. In how many instances have strangers obtained the contracts in the unions with which you have been connected?—In not one.

5117. Would you approve of introducing strangers in preference to medical practitioners of the neighbourhood, if arrangements could be made with them upon fair and equitable terms?—I should think that now there is no difficulty in making such arrangements with the medical practitioners. I believe, before the true intentions of the Poor Law Commissioners were understood, there were sometimes unnecessary irritation and vexation; and the Committee must perceive that if the Commissioners were satisfied of the grounds of their proceedings, it was incumbent upon them, in every instance, not to yield to that irritation and vexation. In my district, however, I do not remember that there has been any recent instance of that kind, and the only instance that I do remember was at the very first stage of the proceedings, before the arrangements were very well understood.

5118. Was it in the neighbourhood of Stowmarket?—Some dissatisfaction existed there.

5119. What is the mode adopted relative to midwifery patients?—The arrangements in Norfolk and Suffolk have been of this kind. We have stated, in the terms of the resolution fixing the salary, that such midwifery cases should be attended as were required to be attended by the board of guardians; but an explanation has always accompanied that resolution to the medical officers elected, that no requisition for the attendance of midwifery patients would be made, except in cases of difficult labour, or in cases of sudden and urgent necessity; and I believe it will be found that exceedingly few midwifery patients have been attended in Norfolk and Suffolk. I believe that in one or two unions the common midwives of the district have been paid for attendance in midwifery, but it did appear to me to be that kind of medical attendance which ought to be the earliest got rid of, because the parties had several months the necessity of providing attendance in view, and that there ought to be only a limited number of cases which ought to be admitted by the board of guardians. I am aware of no difficulties upon that subject.

5120. Have you heard of complaints?—I have heard of complaints from time to time.

5121. In Norfolk and Suffolk the medical men are not called upon to attend the wives of labourers, except in difficult cases?—Certainly not.

5122. So that the same rule applies, with regard to the paupers under the board of guardians as applies to the wives of independent labourers?—Certainly; but we have very few able-bodied married persons, or none, in receipt of relief; and therefore, none paupers.

5123. Mr. *Miles*.] By whom are the payments made; by the board of guardians, or by the medical officers?—In the cases which I have in my mind, there are one or two unions in which the payments are made by the board of guardians, in cases where they think medical relief ought to be afforded; instances in which they give that form of relief are very few in number.

5124. Mr. *Wakley*.] Have you any tables showing what has been paid to medical practitioners in any of the self-supporting dispensaries?—I thought it would be desirable to procure such information, with the view simply of indicating what the payments now made are, by independent labourers, for attendance, and I have here

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here an analysis of the expenditure of the Coventry Self-supporting Dispensary, from July 18, 1831 to March 25, 1837, under the several heads of expenditure, with the average of the cost per case, under various heads, comprising chiefly medicine, surgeons' salaries, surgical instruments, and the dispenser's salary, and the cost per case, including, besides those heads, thus enumerated, the secretary's salary, carriage, postage, printing, advertising, stationery, &c.; repairs, alterations, and painting; coals, candles, insurance, and rent; poor and church rates; boys' wages.—[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 7.]—I have also similar statements of the expenditure of the Burton-upon Trent Self-supporting Dispensary, for the years ending October 31, 1836, and October 31, 1837.—[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 8.]—I have another table of the Derby Self-supporting Charitable and Parochial Dispensary, from November 1831 to November 1836.—[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No 9.]—I put in those tables in answer to the question proposed to me, but I desire, at the same time, to state that I consider this information only to be useful as one among many sources from which information can be derived, and I do not consider that this would enable us, of itself, to fix the remuneration for the medical officers; but I think there must be information derived from many other sources before that can be ascertained.

5125. Is it stated in those cases how far the medical practitioners visited the patients from their own residence?—That is not stated in those tables; but the population being a concentrated town population, they would have to travel a less distance than in the rural districts; in the rural districts of Norfolk and Suffolk, the Committee will perceive that the average size of the districts is not such as to form, except in particular instances, a great obstacle to the medical officers.

5126. But still the time occupied in visiting the patients in the rural districts would be much longer than in the cases you have referred to?—I am aware of that, and that an allowance must be made for that in making the remuneration to the medical officers, but, at the same time, it ought to be taken into account that his private patients will be similarly scattered, and that in the discharge of his duties to the poor, he would be at the same time discharging his private practice.

5127. Do those tables furnish the amount of surgical instruments and dispenser's salary?—Yes; they are valuable upon that account; but I am not disposed to place the same reliance upon them as to the amount of medical remuneration.

5128. Is there any great variation between them in their results?—Singularly they approach very nearly to the same results.

5129. *Chairman.*] You have said that you object to the system of obtaining medical assistance by way of tender; what is your objection to it?—I believe that the period is now passed when it may be necessary to resort to such a system; in the first instance, I can perceive how the system was almost necessarily adopted. I may state, that my district is a peculiarly fortunate one in this respect, that it afforded, by the practice of the incorporations, a sort of rule which might be not improperly adopted; but in other districts, where there were no means of ascertaining what rule ought to be adopted, it does appear to me that a reference to the medical gentlemen was that which it was most natural to take; the objections which have been made by the medical profession probably were not anticipated at the time that this course was adopted, and those objections have daily become more apparent. I am guided, in stating that I think that course undesirable, very much by the knowledge that I have of the feelings of the medical profession; and, since those feelings have been expressed, I do not think that there is any desire on the part of the Poor Law Commissioners, but the contrary, that such a plan should be pursued.

5130. Do you think that, considering the experience that the boards of guardians now have of the expense of medical attendance, the necessity which might at their first formation have existed for their having recourse to the system of tender, does not now exist?—Certainly I do, and I think that there is a desire now to abandon that system.

5131. And you would prefer that the remuneration should be by way of fixed salary?—Certainly.

5132. That salary to be determined by the board of guardians?—That salary to be determined by the board of guardians, upon the elements which I have submitted to the Committee, first, the number of persons who are in the receipt

of

of out-door relief, and, secondly, by a payment for the individual cases of casualty.

5133. Mr. *Barneby.*] In the unions formed by you in Norfolk and Suffolk, have you adopted the payment of medical officers per case?—At present not in one union.

5134. Do you see any objection to adopting that method?—I see this objection, that until the settlement of the question of the relations between the poor and the board of guardians on the subject of medical attendance has occurred, there might be improper objections made by overseers to the relief of cases of emergency; but, I believe, that now those relations are so well understood, that a short period only would elapse before any difficulty arising from that circumstance would be overcome.

5135. Have you any objection to state whether you think 7*s.* a case a sufficient remuneration for the medical officer?—I would rather avoid any thing so specific, because the circumstances must differ very much in different districts, and I think reference must be had to all the circumstances of locality, and especially to this principle, What are the payments made by independent labourers in the district? before you can ascertain what ought to be paid per case for the paupers.

5136. You must be aware that, in many rural districts, the distance of the medical man from the residence of the paupers must be much greater than you have stated it to be in Norfolk and Suffolk; could you, therefore, suggest to the Committee any precise rules to be laid down by them, as to the precise extent of a medical district?—I think it would be impossible to prescribe that, and I think that all that can be expected by a witness before a Committee is, to indicate the principles upon which arrangements might be made; the operation of those principles must be affected very much by local circumstances.

5137. Are you averse to the formation of medical clubs under the control of boards of guardians?—Certainly.

5138. Have you found in any of your unions that the medical officers have ordered a large allowance of meat or other necessaries, in cases where they have not been absolutely necessary, for the paupers?—In one or two unions the boards of guardians have forwarded to me the weekly returns of the medical officers, in order that I might advise the board whether the amount of meat and porter and wine was not extraordinary; in those instances my replies have been, that it appeared to me that if the board of guardians were dissatisfied, they had an opportunity of expressing their dissatisfaction at the termination of the yearly engagement, and that any interference with the discretion of the medical officer during his year's engagement was to be altogether deprecated.

5139. *Chairman.*] If you should find it the case that, in particular parishes of a union, a large allowance of wine and porter and meat should be ordered by the medical man, and that in other parishes, the climate being the same, and the external circumstances the same, and the state of health the same, few such orders were made, should you not think it incumbent upon the board to make some observation upon it?—I think they might, and would call the medical officer before them, and I have known instances in which the expression of dissatisfaction has occurred; but whenever that has occurred, I have also stated that any direct interference with individual cases ought to be avoided; that a general admonition might be given, but an interference with particular cases ought to be avoided. In one case I was called upon by the board of guardians to admonish the medical officer who happened to be present at the meeting of the board. Considerable dissatisfaction had arisen on various grounds—the imperfection with which the returns had been made, and otherwise. Some admonition was conveyed by myself to the medical officer on the subject, at the request of the board, but in that case, as in every other case that I remember, the admonition has not been concerning individual cases, but concerning the general practice.

5140. Mr. *Barneby.*] My question refers to the general practice; as such complaints may have been made in your district, what has been the general rule which you have adopted in those cases; did the board of guardians pass any resolution that the medical men should attend the board after they had given such orders?—I think it desirable that the boards of guardians should, in those instances, request the attendance of the medical officers, and in a courteous manner enter into an explanation with them; and that such a course would be productive of the result desired, that there would be in future no improper use of their discretion.

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5141. If the medical man does not attend to those suggestions, what course would you pursue; would you have an order passed, that the medical man should attend the board of guardians always after he had given orders of that kind?—I will state what I think ought to be done, and what I have advised should be done, which is this, that if the medical man and the board of guardians could not agree as to the course to be pursued in those cases, that would be the subject of consideration at the termination of the annual engagement.

5142. Then, if such is your opinion, at the termination of the engagement the medical man would not be again employed; but what suggestion would you make to the Committee in cases where there were only two medical practitioners competent to undertake the care of that union; must you not then resort to the practice of importing a medical man from some other district?—I should hope that, by a kind and courteous intercourse between the boards of guardians and the medical officers, in almost every case that necessity might be obviated; and if it did arise, it would be to be regarded as a misfortune.

5143. If such a case did arise, you must advertise, or some plan must be adopted, so as to have a person coming from London or from some distant district?—I believe that there may be circumstances that justify that course, but I myself, probably influenced a little by the feeling that I have towards the medical profession, would very much regret to be the instrument of adopting such a proceeding.

5144. Must not that be the case upon the questions I have submitted to you?—Such a necessity might arise.

5145. Must you not, in those cases, have persons from a distance, if it is your wish to carry the law into effect?—If there was an obvious disinclination on the part of the medical officers to adopt the reasonable suggestions of the board of guardians, it must be quite evident to the Committee that the board of guardians must procure, under the circumstances proposed in the previous questions, some person to discharge the duty to the board of guardians.

5146. Mr. *Wakley.*] Is there not, between the board of guardians and the medical officers, a written contract?—Yes.

5147. In that are not the mutual relations of each party stated?—Yes.

5148. Is it not a usual consequence that if there be a violation of engagements on either side that there should be a dissolution of the contract altogether?—Certainly.

5149. Do you believe that, if the boards of guardians conform to the conditions of their contracts, the medical practitioner would violate those conditions?—On the contrary, I must say that I think the experience I have had of the conduct of the medical officers under their contracts in Norfolk and Suffolk, shows, in the great majority of instances, the greatest disposition to co-operate with the boards of guardians, and, in matters in which there may be a difference of opinion, to yield to the suggestions of the board of guardians.

5150. Have your heard the boards of guardians, in many instances, complain of the conduct of the medical officers?—On the contrary, the answers to questions which I proposed to the chairmen of various unions in Norfolk and Suffolk, were expressive of the greatest and most constant satisfaction with the conduct of the medical officers.

5151. Are you not aware that the conduct which is sometimes pursued towards medical officers is extremely perplexing and annoying?—I believe that, when once a misunderstanding arises, it is very difficult to find a common ground of proceeding; in such cases the board of guardians would have only one course to pursue, to be firm, irrespective of other considerations, in the maintenance of their authority; it is exceedingly important and desirable to avoid any such collision; and, I think, that by a respectful demeanor towards the medical officers, it may be avoided.

5152. Would it be at all improper that the medical officer, on his part, should be equally firm in seeing that the conditions of his contract are fulfilled?—He ought to protect his own interests.

5153. Mr. *Barneby.*] In the contract made by the medical man there is no statement of wine and meat?—No; but I think it important that the board of guardians should show great respect to the opinions of the medical man on a subject on which his opinion must have greater weight than the opinion of the board; therefore I should deprecate any thing like an absolute interference of the board with individual cases.

5154. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you not think that those frequent orders of meat and wine

wine may arise from the inadequacy of the amount of medical remuneration, and from the necessity of the case requiring the giving of strong and powerful stimulants, which are expensive?—The instances, in my district, in which there has been any observation of that kind are so extremely few, that I do not think that I have any information which would enable me to answer the question in the affirmative.

5155. Mr. *Wakley.*] In relation to the per-case system, do you not consider that where it is adopted it has a tendency to withhold from the paupers the necessary assistance in some cases of difficulty?—The Committee will be kind enough to remember, that in the plan which I suggested there was a provision made for the entire body of paupers in the receipt of out-door relief, that they should have, without orders, medical attendance during a certain specified period, for example, half a year or a year; and that the adoption of a system of payment per case was meant to meet only the cases of casualty, which might occur beyond the list of actual paupers. I believe that if that plan had been adopted in the first instance, great inconvenience would have been experienced, as is supposed, in the question put to me, but that its adoption now will be subject to less inconvenience; and I can conceive arrangements might be made in the course of another year, by which all inconvenience of that kind would be obviated, I mean arrangements between the labourers and the medical men of the district, independently of parochial arrangements.

5156. Mr. *Scrope.*] You stated that you would recommend that the medical relief to the regular poor should be paid for by the parish to which the pauper belongs?—Yes.

5157. If you extended that to the casualties, would not the difficulty to which allusion has been made in the latter questions, arising from the danger of a refusal of orders, be exaggerated, as it would become the interest of each parishioner to make as few orders as possible?—I certainly had it in my mind to make that a parochial charge.

5158. Mr. *Barneby.*] In the arrangements, do you pay the medical officers who attend the workhouse separately from the charge of attending the out-door paupers?—Two plans have been adopted; in one plan the medical officers who are resident in the vicinity of the workhouse attend in rotation as a part of their duty for three months in the year, or longer; in other cases a medical officer is appointed with a separate salary; I am not prepared to state which plan is most advantageous; perhaps one is suited to one district and the other to another district.

5159. Do you see any objection to this plan, that the medical officer who attends the workhouse should be paid by a salary for attending the paupers in that workhouse, and that the other medical men who attend the out-paupers should be paid so much per case?—I do not, with the view that I have previously stated, that that payment per case should be for casualties only.

5160. *Chairman.*] What, in your opinion, would be the most equitable way of distributing the charge for medical attendance among the several parishes of the union?—I believe that that charge ought to bear a direct and exact relation to the number of cases attended in each particular parish; and the reason why I proposed to the Committee the plan of separating the out-door paupers from the rest of the inhabitants, and forming them into a class, was for the purpose of procuring, first of all, the means of estimating the salary of the medical officers, and, secondly, distributing that charge for that class of cases; I apprehend that it would be found, that after a short time had elapsed very few persons beyond those who are in the receipt of out-door relief would be applicants for or recipients of medical relief, and that if they were, it would be easy to add them to the permanent class; thus widows with large families, I mean those supporting themselves, or men with large families, supporting themselves, or any other class, might be admitted into the class of persons who were to receive medical relief in the parish, the charge being borne by the parish. Provision would thus be made for all classes in which ordinary necessity existed for medical attendance; those cases which were exceptions to such a rule, and which would certainly from time to time occur, might, I think, be made the subject of a payment per case, which payment, in my opinion, ought to be borne by the particular parish to which the casual pauper belongs. The charge of paupers resident beyond the limits of their own union, of course, would be borne by the parish in which they lived. As to the case of casualty, a difficulty was suggested in the question put to me which had occurred to me before, but the means of escaping it were new; but my

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my present impression is, that the charge ought to be parochial in all cases; at the same time, the suggestion made in the question appears to be worthy of consideration.

5161. Would you meet the difficulty suggested in the question by throwing an additional responsibility upon the parish officers for refusing an order in a case of casualty?—I think the difficulty might be met in this way, that in a case of casualty the officer might be entrusted with discretion to order, at a smaller cost, medical attendance up to the next meeting of the board of guardians, and that then payment per case should ensue, after the board of guardians had exercised its discretion in the particular case, in addition to the small payment made for the days intervening between the issue of the order by the parochial officer and the meeting of the board.

5162. The interference of the officer in that case would be similar to that in a case of sudden and urgent necessity; he would give relief upon the same principle as any other relief, upon his view of the urgency and necessity of the case, and the board of guardians would afterwards determine upon it?—Yes.

5163. Mr. *Miles*.] Should not the per-case system be matter of arrangement between the medical practitioners and the board?—Of course it would be matter of arrangement, in the same way as the salary is now a matter of arrangement between the board and the medical practitioners; and I think it very desirable that information should be obtained from all quarters, in order that the board of guardians might proceed upon such an arrangement to determine the cost per case equitably.

5164. You would also advise that an understanding should be come to between the board of guardians and the medical practitioners as to casualties?—Yes.

5165. Should not the per-case system apply both to the paupers of the parish and paupers extra-parochial?—It ought to include the non-resident poor belonging to other unions, as well as those who are resident in the parish, who belong to the union; it appears to me inexpedient that there should be any difficulty in the case of casualty in obtaining medical relief, and therefore all poor persons belonging to any union would receive medical relief in the parishes in which they resided; and where they belonged to one parish in the union, and resided in another, the parish to which they belonged would bear the expense of the medical attendance.

5166. Mr. *Barneby*.] Will you give your opinion upon the following plan of remunerating medical officers: that one medical officer should be appointed to the workhouse, at a salary which should be charged to the establishment; that for his attendance upon all cases of out-door paupers he should be paid so much per head, which shall be charged to the parish to which the pauper belongs; that each order shall be produced to the board of guardians at their weekly meeting, who shall determine whether the orders were properly given or not, and if they shall think that the order was improperly given, that the board of guardians shall have the power of charging it as a loan to the person who is attended, or give the power to the medical officer to recover the payment from the person whom he attends?—The plan proposed would meet my views, with this exception, that it does not appear to me that it would be necessary for the board of guardians to take into their consideration any orders given to parties in receipt of out-door relief; but that all such persons might be permitted to receive medical relief without orders; but the orders given to persons beyond the list of persons receiving out-door relief, or the list of persons for whom medical attendance was to be given for a half-year or a year, would, in the plan I propose, be the subject of consideration at the next meeting of the board of guardians, and they would determine whether the orders were rightly given or not; in case the board of guardians thought that they were not rightly given, it would appear to me very expedient that the relief should be made by way of loan.

5167. You approve of the charge being upon the parish, and not upon the establishment?—Certainly; and in case of the attendance upon the workhouse, I think it might be made an establishment charge.

5168. *Chairman*.] How would you distribute the medical charge, in reference to the poor in the workhouse?—I would make that an establishment charge, giving the medical officer a salary for the attendance upon the workhouse for the period for which it might be desirable to make the arrangement. I know that medical gentlemen resident in the unions value the attendance upon workhouses and establishments of that description, as they afford opportunities of observing disease and the effect of remedies, which they cannot obtain in the houses of the poorer classes; and

and I am quite certain that those privileges are not liable to the abuse which may be supposed by persons out of the profession, but that they rightly discharge their duties when they have also other objects in view. I would therefore say, that I would not positively determine that only one medical officer should attend during the entire year; but seeing that it is deemed desirable by the profession, I would allow a medical officer to attend for part of the year, and another to attend for another part of the year, in particular cases.

5169. You would not prescribe it as a rule to be generally acted upon?—Certainly not.

5170. If a union had engaged a medical man for six months, and had great reason to be satisfied with his conduct, you would not wish them to change him?—My only object is not to encounter those feelings of rivalry on the part of the medical practitioners, which interfere with their kindly relations in society.

5171. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you not find that when a medical officer anxiously discharges his duty, he in a short time obtains the confidence of the paupers, and do you not think it would be an evil to remove such a man from them?—I think the qualities of medical men resident in the union are well known to the inhabitants, and if there were any person whose attendance was objected to by the poor, he certainly ought not to be a person selected for the duties of the workhouse.

5172. *Chairman.*] Have you any statement to make with respect to the mortality in the workhouses?—I have a statement of the average number of each class in the workhouse, and the total number of deaths in each class, and the ages at which they died, stating the unions in the margin of the tables; I think it may be important in elucidation of some tables that I previously put in, that those tables should be comprised in the evidence of the Committee.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 10.]

5173. Mr. *Fielden.*] On the first day of your examination, you gave the result of an inquiry with respect to 539 labourers' families; was that information put in?—It was.

5174. But relative to the 600 families, which you spoke of, have you put in any statement?—I stated, in answer to that question, that I had obtained that information solely for my own purposes and my own private information, and I referred to it in justification of my opinion; but I consider that it would be quite improper for me to put in that information, though I have it in writing, because it relates to a great variety of particulars which concern individuals, and which I should think it extremely indelicate to communicate to the Committee; I merely made the answer in that form in order to show the Committee that my opinion was not formed without some inquiry, which had been satisfactory to myself personally.

5175. Then the 120 families that you have spoken of in the subsequent evidence are not a part of the families of about 600, to which you spoke as being resident in Hadleigh Union?—No, I do not think they are; there may be individual cases, because I remember that one part of that return was obtained from a gentleman resident in that neighbourhood, but they have no reference generally to those 600 families.

5176. Can you give any information to the Committee of what was the occupation of those 600 families in Hadleigh?—I cannot; my information was not of that kind. I believe my previous answer would show that the information obtained, and upon which I supported my general opinion, was of this kind, that previously there had been comparatively less employment, that there had been a difference in the extent of the employment afforded to the wife and to the children, and that there had been considerable dependence upon the poor-rate, whereas, at the period when the examination was made, the employment was more constant, both of the man and the wife, and the chidren, and the income from wages might fairly, therefore, be deemed to be greater; but there was no exact comparison of the absolute income in the former case, and the absolute income in the latter case.

5177. Then any information that you derived from that source does not go to show the improved state of those 600 families?—It goes to convince me, and I stated it solely as one of the grounds of my opinion, that the income from wages had increased so far in such families as to make up for the loss of income from the poor-rate.

5178. You stated as the reason for it, that some branches of the families are

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in silk factories?—I stated that voluntarily to the Committee, although it was not requested, from my wishing that the Committee should be acquainted with the whole evidence which had been given to me.

5179. In answer to question 4691, you stated that you must entirely dissent from the opinion that the workhouse could be employed as a means of keeping down wages; will you state to the Committee your reasons for that opinion?—I believe that the amount of annual income of labourers in any district depends upon the means that exist there for the productive employment of capital upon the land, that is, upon the productive powers of the land, upon the skill of the farmers, upon the facilities that there are for obtaining a good market, and upon the industry and skill of the labouring population; and that no combination of occupiers could interfere with the results which are legitimately to be obtained from such sources, excepting there were an obstruction like that of the allowance system, occasioning local congestions of the population.

5180. Do not the able-bodied labourers show a great indisposition to go into the workhouse?—They prefer being maintained by the wages of labour.

5181. Does not that preference which they have for being maintained by the wages of labour induce them to accept lower wages rather than go into the workhouse?—I believe that, in the long run, it cannot induce them to accept lower wages rather than go into the workhouse, any more than where it is not the custom for able-bodied men to receive relief at all, lower wages would be induced by the fact that relief to able-bodied men is not given in that district; but, I believe that relief may be so administered, and is so administered, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, as, by stimulating the industry and fidelity of the labourers, to increase the amount of profit to the occupiers, and so to promote an increase in the income of the labourers; if the way in which relief were given were such as to create a preference for relief over wages, the effect would be, by impairing the industry and fidelity of the labourers, that wages must fall inevitably; and when I say that the workhouse cannot operate to depress wages, I have omitted at the moment to state that the effect of the workhouse in stimulating the industry and fidelity of the labourers, though it cannot directly, does remotely, increase the fund for the maintenance of the labourers.

5182. You read a letter from the Rev. George Sanby, junior, in your evidence, and I find that in the six weeks, commencing with the 10th of January and ending the 14th of February, there were 126 applications from able-bodied men for relief, and in the same six weeks the house was offered to 411, and there came into the house, it appears from the same statement, 58; can you form any opinion of what became of those who did not accept the workhouse?—Mr. Sanby's letter appears to me to contain the reply; he states, "I can affirm, that very generally throughout the union, the occupiers have found some sort of employment for the labourers; in many parishes, the attention of the farmers has been actively stirred up to meet the emergency; they first waited to hear the determination of the board, for there was a strong expectation that, from the great number of applications and the state of the weather, a proposal for out-door relief would be successful; but the very next morning (and, in one parish the very same evening) after the determination of the board was made known, arrangements were instantly adopted for setting the men to work; 'This will never do;' was the universal cry; 'better find the men employment in the parish than pay such a sum for their maintenance.'"

5183. Do you know the description of work the men are set to, or the wages they receive for that work?—I cannot, in the instance referred to, convey that information to the Committee.

5184. Would those men be induced, under those circumstances, to accept lower wages rather than go into the workhouse?—In reference to that question, I must refer the Committee to what occurs in Haddingtonshire in Scotland, during the period of the snow, to which that county is much more exposed than the county of Norfolk; and if in the county of Haddingtonshire, which is an agricultural county, a long-continued period of severe weather were to occur, the able-bodied labourers would obtain no relief of any kind whatsoever. I believe that nobody in Haddingtonshire contends that their not obtaining relief is a direct interference with wages, and I conceive that the offer of the workhouses under such circumstances affords to the labourer protection in his relations with his employer.

5185. But ..

5185. But if there was any protection in the offer of the workhouse in this case, why did not the 411 applicants accept of it instead of only 58, who went into it?—Because, for the remainder, the letter conveyed to me by Mr. Sanby, and which I have read to the Committee, convinces me that employment at adequate wages was provided.

5186. Can you give the Committee any opinion of your own of what is adequate wages for a man and his wife and four children?—I have already stated to the Committee, that it did not appear to me desirable that I should express an opinion upon a subject upon which individuals of the most extensive experience and the greatest skill had been found to differ exceedingly.

5187. Mr. *Scrope.*] Do you not think that adequate wages are such wages as the ordinary labourers of the district have lived upon and brought up their families in decency?—I believe that adequate wages would not have that signification; what is meant in the question would be ordinary wages.

5188. *Chairman.*] Have you any general suggestion to offer to the Committee, as to any improvements in the law, or in its administration?—If the Committee desire that I should communicate such suggestions, I would do so.

5189. Would it be more convenient to you to do it in writing?—I have no doubt that I could find leisure to do so in writing.

APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

INFORMATION derived from CLERKS of UNIONS respecting SALARIES of MEDICAL OFFICERS in Incorporations under Local Acts before the interference of the Commissioners, and in Unions or in Incorporations since the interference of the Commissioners.

Name of Old Incorporation included in Union.	Population.	Annual Salary of Medical Officers.	Ratio to Population.	NAME of NEW UNION.	Population.	Salary of Medical Officers per Ann.	Ratio to Population.
Incorporated Hundreds of		£.	d.			£.	d.
Mitford and Launditch	24,134	- -	5	Mitford & Launditch Union	27,694	500	4¼
Stow - - -	8,308	170	4½	Stow Union - - -	18,308	356	4½
Loddon and Clavering	14,068	160	2¾	Loddon & Clavering Union	14,068	210	3½
Wangford - - -	13,605	160	2¾	Wangford Union - -	13,234	172	3
East and West Flegg	7,210	80	2½	Fleggs Hundreds - -	7,210	100	3½
Colneis and Carlford	10,717	168	3¾	Woodbridge Union -	22,163	400	4½
Forehoe - - -	13,838	141	2½	Forehoe Hundred - -	13,838	175	3
Great Yarmouth (parish)	21,115	60	not ¼	Great Yarmouth Parish	21,115	120	1¼
Tunstead and Happing	17,039	200	2¾	Tunstead and Happing Hundreds - -	17,039	213 8s.	3
Bosmere and Claydon	12,956	250	4½	Bosmere & Claydon Union	15,857	300	4½

Appendix, No. 2.

INFORMATION supplied chiefly by CHAIRMEN of UNIONS, concerning the DISTRICTS of MEDICAL OFFICERS, *Norfolk*; Year ending March 1837.

NAME of UNION.	NAME of MEDICAL OFFICER.	No. of Parishes attended by each Officer.	Area of each Officer's district in English Statute Acres.	Population of each Officer's District.	
Aylsham - - -	Mr. Girling - - -	7	14,510	2,999	
	Wordingham - -	6	12,700	3,602	
	Copeman - -	13	15,790	5,086	
	Saunders - - -	11	16,980	5,593	
	Hacon - - -	9	8,090	2,071	
Blofield - - -	Mr. T. E. Clarke - -	15	29,580	4,865	Great extent of marsh land.
	Peter Eade - -	16	17,410	4,948	- ditto - ditto.
Depwade - - -	Mr. Crisp - - -	5	7,630	3,697	
	Garnies - - -	1	2,370	580	
	Webb - - -	1	2,960	759	
	Miles - - -	7	13,780	3,929	
	Ward - - -	1	1,070	272	
	Dr. Wharton - - -	3	5,470	3,638	
	Mr. Rose - - -	3	4,820	1,303	
	Mines - - -	1	1,070	617	
	Barton - - -	7	8,410	2,663	
	Tunally - - -	1	1,030	471	
	Howard - - -	3	8,320	2,513	
	Utting - - -	9	11,190	3,754	
Docking - - -	Mr. Church - - -	12	27,370	5,821	
	Wells - - -	14	26,740	4,913	
	Davis - - -	10	27,320	4,642	
Downham - - -	Mr. Wales - - -	9	28,580	6,042	Marsh and waste.
	Hunter - - -	1	3,950	739	
	Johnson - - -	12	26,460	4,059	- ditto - ditto.
	Dr. Paterson - - -	3	8,510	1,292	
	Mr. Steele - - -	8	19,750	4,222	
Erpingham - -	Mr. Colcby - - -	5	9,580	4,012	
	Prentice - - -	8	9,890	2,673	
	Earle - - -	17	18,450	5,564	
	Hagon - - -	5	4,100	1,015	
	Banks - - -	14	24,510	6,751	
St. Faith's - -	Mr. Cooper - - -	8	9,600	3,157	
	Messrs. Taylor & Co. -	6	9,450	2,517	
	Mr. Harris - - -	6	14,460	2,813	
	Owen - - -	4	7,980	1,290	
	Wordingham - -	6	6,590	1,349	
Freebridge Lynn - -	Mr. Joy - - -	10	25,760	3,834	Marsh, or barr en land.
	Whiting - - -	6	11,500	1,839	
	Headly - - -	9	22,160	3,803	- Marsh.
	Buller - - -	7	11,590	2,013	
Guiltcross - - -	Mr. H. Howard - -	3	8,370	2,699	
	P. Dent - - -	7	15,410	4,413	
	C. Morgan - -	4	6,890	1,317	
	T. Postle - -	3	8,300	1,429	
	Messrs. Wharton & Co. -	4	7,020	2,015	

NAME of UNION.	NAME of MEDICAL OFFICER.	No. of Parishes attended by each Officer.	Area of each Officer's District in English Statute Acres.	Population of each Officers' District.	
DISTRICTS of Medical Officers, *Norfolk*; Year ending March 1837—*continued.*					
Henstead	Mr. Gowing	10	8,470	1,939	
	W. H. Taylor	9	8,880	2,116	
	Tunaley	8	13,150	3,088	
	Merry	10	11,480	3,596	
King's Lynn	Mr. Buller	4	5,410	13,820	
	Chadwick				
	Murlin				
	Whiting				
Loddon and Clavering	Mr. Dashwood	10	16,500	3,167	
	Pedgrift	10	14,410	3,556	
	Larke	11	11,080	2,878	
	Currie	10	14,050	4,139	Proposed Arrangement.
Mitford and Launditch	Mr. Rix	12	22,640	5,016	1st district 17,590 - 4,785
	Warcup	10½	21,725	5,876	2d – 13,160 - 3,378
	Daveney	11	19,420	5,117	3d – 6,830 - 4,447
	Raven	15	25,350	5,250	4th – 21,250 - 4,143
	Overton				5th – 24,120 - 4,888
	Hopson	7	14,020	3,592	6th – 12,340 - 2,452
	Pillans	4½	6,645	2,735	7th – 14,510 - 3,493
Swaffham	Mr. Rose	11½	32,935	4,102	- - Very extensive commons and wastes.
	Steele	3	5,650	547	ditto - ditto.
	Whitby	15½	36,545	6,325	
	Emerson	3	8,480	1,811	
Thetford	Mr. Best	9	30,550	3,399	Open barren country.
	Bailey	7	20,140	2,100	ditto - ditto.
	Roberts	3	14,310	2,836	ditto - ditto.
	Archer	3	35,740	3,375	ditto - ditto.
	Joy	2	6,750	1,182	
	Morgan	5	7,410	1,959	
	Luffingham	2	2,810	865	
	Green	2	2,680	482	
Walsingham	Mr. Young	7	16,220	6,236	
	Buck	4	6,570	1,471	
	Damant	21	28,570	6,741	
	Messrs. Adcock	12	18,950	4,554	
	Mr. Banks	4	5,390	1,306	
	Ellis	2	2,130	591	
Wayland	Mr. Potter	8	15,900	4,436	
	Hargreaves	6	11,740	3,123	
	French	3	6,730	917	
	Postle	8	16,160	2,167	
	87		1,129,060	266,003	
	Average		12,977	3,057	

INFORMATION supplied chiefly by Chairmen of Unions, respecting the Districts of Medical Officers, *Suffolk*; Year ending March 1837.

Blything	Mr. Walker	7	12,300	2,766	
	Rudkin	3	6,030	2,420	
	Lanchester	4	6,860	1,424	
	Packard	8	13,670	5,654	
	Lay	10	14,970	2,998	
	Primrose	5	8,000	2,161	
	Sutherland	2	3,320	2,154	
	King	4	7,390	2,326	
	Turner	6	15,460	3,400	
Bosmere and Claydon	Mr. Beck	15	18,540	4,364	Barking is set at 2,000 acres.
	Blomfield	13	16,690	5,664	Needham at 1,000 acres.
	Pennington	6	13,520	2,601	
	Gross	1	1,560	375	
	Lock	4	6,070	2,953	
Cosford	Mr. J. Growse	2½	5,430	2,408	
	Mudd	2½	5,820	2,701	
	R. Growse	4	4,090	1,439	
	Lawton	11	17,370	5,609	
	Vincent	8	18,600	5,743	
Hartismere	Mr. Harris	8	15,610	5,333	
	Edwards	13	17,180	6,686	
	Cuthbert	11	22,090	5,752	

(*continued.*)

NAME of UNION.	NAME of MEDICAL OFFICER.	No. of Parishes attended by each Officer.	Area of each Officer's District, in English Statute Acres.	Population of each Officer's District.	
DISTRICTS of Medical Officers, *Suffolk*; Year ending March 1837—*continued.*					
Hoxne	Mr. Willson	2	3,700	769	
	Gross	2	2,610	756	
	Lock	1	1,680	332	
	Lanchester	2	6,630	2,158	
	Rudkin	1	3,390	866	
	Aldis	4	8,300	2,516	
	Messrs. Mayhew & Gooch	12	23,820	8,099	
Ipswich	Mr. Bullen	5	7,020	6,995	
	Francis	3		6,383	
	Sampson	6		7,076	
Mildenhall	Mr. Payne	7½	21,835	4,080	Open barren country.
	Primrose	4½	33,765	3,772	ditto - ditto.
	Bailey	1	5,290	248	
Plomesgate	Mr. Muriel	7	12,920	3,847	
	Randall	7	18,000	3,708	
	Gross	6	9,770	2,372	
	Jeaffreson	5	10,470	3,871	
	King	8	10,500	3,698	
	Freeman	7	10,450	3,208	
Risbridge	Messrs. Easteott & Robinson	5	8,280	2,342	
	Mr. H. Martin	2	4,090	2,237	
	Brown	1	3,460	1,080	
	Messrs. Martin & Barnes	3	6,490	2,405	
	Mr. Crown	6	12,460	3,126	
	Dunthorn	4	9,210	2,979	
	Collins	5	8,580	1,983	
Stow	Mr. Kent	8	14,810	4,004	
	M'Intyre	1	550	330	
	Basham	3	5,580	1,547	
	Luffingham	1	1,750	405	
	Harris	1	1,510	465	
	Slaytor	3	5,380	1,777	
	White	3	5,290	1,661	
	Bree	7	11,390	2,666	
	Freeman	7	10,600	5,453	
Sudbury	Mr. King	9	17,620	5,887	-- The area of a small parish in this district (Creeting St. Peter) cannot be ascertained.
	Messrs. Cream & Jones	8	15,020	5,185	
	Mr. Mason	10	8,680	6,802	
	Barnes	9	17,620	4,781	
	Symmons	8	17,440	5,543	
Thingoe	Mr. Green	6	15,270	4,401	
	Image	5	8,970	1,797	
	Dunthorn	2	2,550	624	
	Barber	5	10,580	2,274	
	M'Intyre	7	16,000	2,258	
	Hubbard	6	7,330	1,777	
	Creed	6	11,760	1,882	
	Pyman	9	12,360	1,909	
Wangford	Mr. Tyson	13	19,050	6,581	
	Currie	15	16,000	6,477	
Woodbridge	Mr. Acton	12	14,310	4,622	
	Cowell	1	2,720	568	
	Moore	10½	15,525	5,192	
	Wilkin	5	8,280	2,462	
	Weeding	8	18,160	3,245	
	Welton	9½	13,765	5,773	
	78		824,160	256,185	
	Average		10,566	3,284	

Appendix, No. 3.

INFORMATION derived from CLERKS of UNIONS, respecting Number of duly qualified resident Medical Practitioners in each Union, &c. &c.

NAME of UNION.	Number of Medical Officers employed by Union.	Number of Practitioners duly qualified who are resident in the Union.	Number of Practitioners duly qualified and resident in the Union, who are Medical Officers.	Number of Practitioners duly qualified, and resident in the Union, who are not Medical Officers, but who reside in the same Parish with one of the Medical Officers.	Number of Practitioners duly qualified, and resident in the Union, who are not Medical Officers, and who do not reside in the same Parish with a Medical Officer.	Number of Practitioners duly qualified, who are Medical Officers of the Union for adjacent parishes, though resident beyond the limits of the Union.
Aylsham	7	10	5	4	1	2
Blofield	3	5	3	2	–	–
Depwade	–	–	–	–	–	–
Docking	3	10	3	5	2	–
Downham	5	9	5	2	2	–
Erpingham	5	10	5	3	2	–
St. Faith's	5	2	1	1	–	4
Fleggs	3	3	3	–	–	–
Forehoe	4	5	2	2	1	2
Freebridge Lynn	4	4	2	–	2	2
Guiltcross	5	3	3	–	–	2
Henstead	4	2	1	–	1	3
Loddon and Clavering	4	2	2	–	–	2
Mitford and Launditch	6	11	6	5	–	–
Swaffham	4	3	2	1	–	2
Thetford	8	8	8	–	–	–
Tunstead and Happing	3	5	3	2	–	–
Walsingham	7	9	5	4	–	2
Wayland	4	6	3	3	–	1
Blything	12	17	11	6	–	1
Bosmere and Claydon	6	5	5	–	–	1
Cosford	5	8	5	2	1	–
Hartismere	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hoxne	9	5	4	–	1	5
Mildenhall	3	4	2	2	–	1
Plomesgate	6	11	6	5	–	–
Risbridge	8	9	8	1	–	–
Samford	5	6	3	3	–	2
Stow	9	9	6	3	–	3
Sudbury	6	13	5	5	3	1
Thingoe	7	2	2	–	–	5
Wangford	2	13	2	11	–	–
Woodbridge	7	13	6	6	1	1
	169	222	127	78	17	42
King's Lynn	4	10	4	6	–	–
Ipswich	3	24	3	21	–	–

Number of Medical Officers employed by Unions - - - - - - - - 169
Number of Practitioners duly qualified who are resident in the Unions - - - - - 222
Number of Practitioners duly qualified and resident in the Union who are Medical Officers - - 127
Number of Practitioners duly qualified and resident in the Union, who are not Medical Officers, but who reside in the same Parish with one of the Medical Officers - - - - - 78
Number of Practitioners duly qualified and resident in the Union, who are not Medical Officers, but who do not reside in the same Parish with a Medical Officer - - - - - - 17
Number of Practitioners duly qualified who are Medical Officers of the Union for adjacent Parishes, though resident beyond the limits of the Union - - - - - - - - 42

Appendix, No. 4.

Dear Sir,

IN consequence of certain questions lately transmitted to the different boards of guardians, relative to the medical arrangements of the unions, I am induced to believe that a brief account of a medical club established here three quarters of a year ago may be interesting to you, particularly as it has been in a great degree successful, and shows the practicability of the plan in a country district. On the 15th July 1836, several of our neighbouring clergy and gentry held a meeting at Coltishall, for the purpose of forming an independent medical club for the benefit of the labouring population of Coltishall and the adjoining parishes; and I have enclosed a copy of the rules and regulations passed at the time. The following is a table containing the names of some of the parishes, their population, the number of free subscribers, and the number of cases of sickness which have been attended, from the commencement of the club to the present time.

PARISH.	Population.	No. of Subscribers.	No. of Sick.
Belaugh	151	14	6
Coltishall	868	33	64
Horstead	593	34	44
Lammas	275	12	13
Wroxham	368	44	21
Stratton	218	16	25
Scottow	460	34	32
Frettenham	269	32	31
Hautbois	141	10	13
	3,343	229	249

In the number of sick are included 27 cases of Midwifery.

There are a few subscribers in Hevingham, Sco-Ruston, Salhouse, &c.; and the total number of persons who have received medical assistance from the club, including all the parishes, is 263. Such a statement cannot

cannot, I think, fail to prove the prosperous condition of an institution of so recent formation; and the degree of benefit derived by the free members during sickness is striking, both as to the number relieved, and also as regards the generally successful issue of the cases, attributable probably to the unrestricted and early application for medical advice; I am sorry to say, that in the parish of Frettenham some dissatisfaction has arisen, in consequence of one or two families having received, during the influenza, notes for the attendance of the parish doctor, they being at the time not on the pauper list, but in the receipt of weekly wages; and I have heard that the number of subscribers will in consequence be much reduced at the ensuing quarter. Of course, if a man with a wife and family earning perhaps 9*s.* a week, finds that he can have a note from a relieving officer for medical assistance, it is scarcely to be expected that he will pay to a club; and he cannot be blamed for not doing so. To draw a line between those who are entitled to the services of the district surgeon, and those who are to provide themselves with medical assistance, is a point that seems attended with great difficulty, but it is one of great importance as regards the success of the medical club system; I should imagine that the experience already possessed by the boards of guardians since the working of the new Act, would enable them pretty nearly to decide individually who are and who are not proper objects for parochial medical relief in their several unions, and that, generally speaking, where clubs are in existence, and the relieving officers sufficiently careful, they can act determinately in the matter; but even then a difficulty remains, which does not seem to be so easy of removal; a man in the receipt of regular weekly wages subscribes to a medical club for himself and family; if his wife or his children are ill, he applies without delay to the surgeon, procures advice and medicines, and preserves his independence; but should he himself happen to be the sick person, how are his wife and children to be maintained during his illness?—his earnings are stopped, he has most probably saved nothing, and although he has provided himself with medical assistance, he must for the sake of his family become a pauper, and apply to his parish for relief; and if for one form of relief why not for another? This case has happened to me several times, and I have been obliged to certify the illness of members of our club, in order to procure them relief from the board. Indeed in the new form for the weekly medical returns in the Aylsham Union, there is a column headed, "If belonging to any medical club;" this is an objection frequently brought forward against the establishment of *independent* medical clubs, and if a remedy could be found, there is no doubt but the result would be beneficial. Could the difficulty be met by any plan of affording temporary relief by loan? For the success of independent medical clubs two things seem to be of primary importance. 1. That the free subscriptions be not on too low a scale; this would be "substituting one form of assistance for another, and thus disguising the dependence of the poor;" besides, the remuneration to the surgeon, if limited to the amount of the free subscriptions, would be too low to urge him to any active co-operation in the business. 2. That one general plan, modified only according to circumstances, be universally adopted, so as to prevent competition and rivalry; for if one club has one scale of charges, and another a higher or lower one, one set of rules, and a second regulations of a different nature, they can never become very general, and if not general, they cannot be equally useful; I would also suggest, (and some few circumstances lead me to think it a point of no little importance), that independent medical clubs should not be under the control or superintendence of the boards of guardians; it is highly desirable that the boards should sanction and advise their formation, and perhaps also propose a plan for their regulation, but not that they should take a part either in the choice of the medical officers or in the general management of their affairs.

I remain &c.

Coltishall, April 7th, 1837. *E. Copeman.*

Appendix, No. 5.

At a Meeting held the 15th day of July 1836, at *Coltishall*, Robert Marsham, Esq. in the Chair, and Present,—

The Rev. John Taylor.	The Rev. John Lubbock.
The Rev. Jex Blake.	John Longe, Esq.
The Rev. James Shirley.	Robert Hawes, Esq.
The Rev. George Howes.	Edmund Henry Lyon, Esq.
The Rev. William Heath Marsh.	

It was Resolved,—

First.—That a Self-supporting Medical Club be established for the parishes of Coltishall, Horstead, Hautbois, Haynford, Buxton, Belaugh, Crostwick, Frettenham, Lammas-with-Little Hautbois, Salhouse, Scottow, Stratton Strawless, Hevingham, Wroxham and Hoveton St. John.

Second.—That the clergy, landowners and occupiers in the above parishes be requested to aid, by their benefactions and subscriptions, the maintenance of such medical club, and to encourage the labouring classes of their parishes to become free members.

Third.—That all persons subscribing 5*s.* and upwards annually be honorary members, but not entitled to any of the benefits of the society.

Fourth.—That all of the labouring class, both male and female, whose earnings shall not exceed, upon an average, 21*s.* per week, be allowed to become free members of this medical club, and thus to ensure to themselves medical and surgical attendance and medicine during sickness.

Fifth.—That all servants living in farm-houses and in tradesmen's families be allowed to become free members of this medical club.

Sixth.—That the following scale of payments, weekly or quarterly, shall entitle such persons to become free members:—

	Per Week.		Per Quarter.
	d.		*s.* *d.*
Every person without a child	1	or	1 –
Every widow or widower with one child under 16 years of age	1	or	1 –
Every widow or widower with two, or three, children under 16	1½	or	1 6
Every widow or widower with more than three children under 16	2	or	1 9
Every man and his wife	1½	or	1 6
Every man and his wife with not more than three children under 16	2	or	1 9
Every man and his wife with more than three children under 16	2½	or	2 3*

Seventh.—That the wife of a free member, who subscribes for himself and his wife, may be attended in her confinement, on paying, three weeks before the time at which she expects to be confined, 7*s.* 6*d.*; the honorary fund paying in addition thereto 2*s.* 6*d.*

Eighth.—That the free members of the club shall be entitled to have their children vaccinated free of all charge; but if any refuse to have their children vaccinated, they shall not be entitled to attendance in case the small-pox should attack their families.

Ninth.—That any person be permitted to subscribe for his aged parents (if unable to work, and from want of sufficient means of subsistence obliged to live with his family) on the terms prescribed for a man and his wife, and children under 16, viz. counting the parents as children.

Tenth.—That the weekly payments be made regularly every Monday; and the quarterly payments on the 6th of January, the 5th of April, the 6th of July, and the 11th of October. (Except in Frettenham and Hautbois, all the payments are quarterly.)

Eleventh.—

* At the next quarterly meeting I intend to propose reducing the last-mentioned sum to 2*s.* per quarter for the benefit of large families.—*E. C.*

Eleventh.—That any free member in arrear more than one month, shall forfeit all claim to the benefit of this society.

Twelfth.—That the honorary fund be employed for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the institution, *exclusive of medicines and attendance*; but, should any surplus arise, that it be applied for the benefit of the free members in any way the committee may determine; (out of this fund the surgeons are allowed to provide wine, broth, &c. for patients in cases of urgent necessity.)

Thirteenth.—That sick members shall furnish their own bottles; and when able shall attend on the medical man, before ten in the morning, who will visit them at their own houses when they are unable to attend.

Fourteenth.—That the clergy and gentry be requested to receive the subscriptions of the free members, and to pay them, with the names of the subscribers, into the hands of the secretary, by whom it is paid over to the surgeons.

Fifteenth.—That the committee consist of the members present, and any other honorary members who may be willing to assist.

Sixteenth.—That there be a meeting of the committee on the Thursday previous to each of the above-named quarter-days, at the White Horse, Coltishall, at eleven o'clock, A.M.

Seventeenth.—That Mr. Hawes be requested to be the treasurer.

Eighteenth.—That Messrs. Taylor & Copeman be appointed surgeons to this medical club.

Nineteenth.—That the honorary subscriptions commence from the 6th of July, and the quarterly subscriptions of the free members from the same date.

Twentieth.—That Alfred Bacon be appointed secretary to this society, with a salary of 1*l.* per quarter.

Twenty-first.—That 500 copies of the above resolutions be printed for circulation in the respective parishes in this district.

List of Honorary Subscribers.

	£.	s.	d.
The Rev. William Abbott, Horstead	2	–	–
Mrs. Archer, Coltishall	1	–	–
Mrs. Burroughes, Hoveton	2	–	–
The Rev. Jex Blake, Lammas	1	–	–
Thomas Blake, D.C.L., Horstead	2	–	–
The Rev. George Howes, Spixworth	1	–	–
Robert Hawes, esq., Coltishall	2	–	–
Mrs. Hawes, Coltishall	2	–	–
The Rev. W. Arnold, W. Keppel, Haynford	2	–	–
John Longe, esq., Spixworth	2	–	–
The Rev. John Lubbock, Scottow	1	–	–
E. H. Lyon, esq., Horstead	2	–	–
Robert Marsham, esq., Stratton	2	–	–
The Rev. W. Heath Marsh, Lammas	1	–	–
Emily, Dowager Lady Suffield, Horstead	3	–	–
The Rev. James Shirley, Frettenham	2	–	–
The Rev. John Taylor, Haynford	1	–	–
The Rev. Dr. Ward, Coltishall	2	–	–
J. W. Lyon, Winder, esq., Horstead	2	–	–
	33	–	–*

* This fund has increased since the circulars were printed, and amounts to rather more than 50*l.*

Appendix, No. 6.

Samuel Armstrong, Surgeon, Melton.

I have established medical clubs in Melton, Ufford, Bradfield and Dallinghoo, all of them parishes of the Woodbridge Union. When the board of guardians was first established, at Michaelmas 1835, I had 200 heads of families and 127 single persons as subscribers. The rate of payment, when I first established the clubs, was too low; I admitted this low payment to give the system a trial, it being understood that the payment should be increased if it did not succeed. The charge at first was 5*s.* per annum for married labourers and their families, and 2*s.* 6*d.* for the single. In consequence of Mr. Shawe's not thinking this payment sufficient, I raised the charge to 8*s.* 8*d.* the married, and 4*s.* 4*d.* the single.

Many of those who were first subscribers to the medical club, are now attended as private patients, paying at the same rate as I should charge to any member of the middle classes; others are also now attended as private patients, but at an inferior rate of payment. I have only admitted this inferior rate lately; I was afraid of getting them on my books, and that they might find they could not pay me, and that thus an unkindly feeling might be created between us; but I found that they made the payments regularly. In some instances the children who had come to visit their parents from Dorsetshire, Kent, Wiltshire and other counties, called upon me at Whitsuntide, and paid what their parents owed me, requesting that I would attend them again whenever they were ill, and promising to secure me the payment of my bill.

The subscribers to my clubs are now somewhat fewer than they were a year ago, which I attribute to the great facility with which medical relief is obtained from the board of guardians of the Woodbridge Union; and the increased rate of payment demanded has perhaps occasioned more of the labourers to apply to the Woodbridge board; my private patients among the labourers have also increased; all which circumstances have tended to diminish the number of subscribers to my clubs. I probably have not been so punctual in collecting the payments from the subscribers.

Nothing in this district could prevent the complete success of the medical clubs, but the facility afforded the labourers of obtaining medical relief from the unions. The inhabitants in my district are chiefly agricultural labourers; there are a few mechanics in Melton; the labourers entered the clubs most cheerfully; I never heard any complaint from them that they were obliged to provide medical relief for themselves; they have always, when they brought the money to me, expressed great gratitude for my services, and said they feared the payment was too little for my attention to them.

The subscribers to the clubs are much more pleasant patients than the same class when paupers. When they receive an order from the parish they are seldom satisfied; whatever attention is paid to them they expect much more, and even when much more is done for them they find fault with the attendance. They have such an abhorrence of the parish doctor, that they would treat Sir Astley Cooper in the same way, if he were resident in the country.

When the labourers are subscribers to medical clubs, confidence is established between the medical officer and his patients; the labourer feels himself indebted to the medical officer for attendance at a low charge, and he is grateful for it; and the officer is probably impressed with a clearer view of his interest, and a stricter sense of duty, when he is serving individuals than when he is the servant of the public.

It is a quality of the attendance afforded in the unions, that some delay must occur in getting orders; this does not occur to medical clubs. It is the interest of the medical practitioner to give the most prompt attention to his subscribers, and they can call upon him at any moment without the intervention of an order from the union or the overseers.

The poor have abundant security for the careful attendance of the medical officers; they can invite another medical gentleman to settle in the district, if they are dissatisfied; but the most powerful means they possess to prevent a medical man from neglecting them, consists in the opportunity they have of promoting his success among the middle and inferior classes, by the statements they make concerning his skill and attention, or of procuring his disgrace by a report of his neglect and want of success.

The complaints of paupers were so common that they had little effect, in the former administration of the law, and were generally disregarded.

The remuneration afforded by the medical clubs is certainly greater than can be procured from the casual payments of labourers, because the smaller but more regular payment from the whole class exceeds the casual payments of individuals.

S. Armstrong.

Appendix, No. 7.

ANALYSIS of the EXPENDITURE of the *Coventry* SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARY, from 18 July 1831 to 25 March 1837.

PERIOD.	Number of Cases attended.	Surgeons' Salaries.	Medicine.	Surgical Instruments.	Dispenser's Salary.	TOTAL.	Average Cost per Case for Medicine, Surgical Instruments, and Surgeons' and Dispenser's Salaries.	OTHER EXPENSES. Secretary's Salary.	Carriage, Postage, Printing, Advertising, Stationery, &c.	Repairs, Alterations and Painting.	Coals, Candles, Insurance and Rent.	Poor and Church Rates.	Boys' Wages.	TOTAL.	Aggregate Total.	Average Cost per Case, computed on the Aggregate Total.
From 18 July 1831		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
To 25 March 1832 -	1,505	80 17 8	45 10 3	30 - -	10 - -	166 7 11	2 2½	20 - -	24 12 10	- -	13 17 10	3 11 -	- -	62 1 8	228 9 7	3 -¼
To 25 March 1833 -	2,437	263 1 5	103 2 4	5 14 -	38 6 8	410 4 5	3 4½	27 15 8½	28 4 11½	- -	24 19 5	13 7 -	- -	94 7 1	504 11 6	4 1½
To 25 March 1834 -	1,668	268 - -	112 12 -	- 13 10	40 - -	421 5 10	5 -½	28 19 6	27 12 6	- -	26 3 4	7 6 10	3 - -	93 2 2	514 8 -	6 2
To 25 March 1835 -	1,629	287 2 -	88 11 1	- -	60 - -	435 13 1	5 4	- -	27 4 7	21 12 -	31 5 2½	3 12 -	7 7 6	91 1 3½	526 14 4½	6 5½
To 25 March 1836 -	1,500	262 3 -	95 6 3	3 18 3½	60 - -	421 7 6½	5 7½	- -	18 19 10½	4 11 11	29 10 10½	3 14 -	7 16 -	64 12 8	486 - 2½	6 5¾
To 25 March 1837 -	1,530	261 15 -	90 7 1	6 - 11	60 - -	418 3 -	5 5½	- -	19 14 11	2 6 -	29 16 11	1 18 -	7 16 -	61 11 10	479 14 10	6 3¼
	10,269					2,273 1 9½	4 5								2,739 18 6	5 4

Appendix, No. 8.

STATEMENT of the EXPENDITURE of the *Burton-upon-Trent* SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARY, for the Years ending 31 October 1836 and 31 October 1837.

PERIOD.	Number of Cases attended.	Surgeons' Salaries.	Medicine and Medical Appliances.	Dispenser's Salary, including Coals, Candles, and care of Linen.	TOTAL.	Average Cost per Case for Medicine and Medical Appliances, and Surgeons' and Dispensers' Salaries.	OTHER EXPENSES. Secretary's Salary.	Rent.	Printing and Incidental Expenses.	TOTAL.	Aggregate Total.	Average Cost per Case, computed on the Aggregate Total.
Year ending		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
31 October - - - 1836	1,460	160 5 4	106 17 4	57 1 9	324 4 5	4 5½	5 - -	14 6 8	6 19 4	26 6 -	350 10 5	4 9½
31 October - - - 1837	1,310	127 6 9	104 14 11	62 10 -	294 11 8	4 5¾	5 - -	17 - -	6 13 4	28 13 4	323 5 -	4 11
	2,770				618 16 1	4 5½					673 15 5	4 10¼

Appendix, No. 9.

ANALYSIS of the EXPENDITURE of the *Derby* SELF-SUPPORTING CHARITABLE AND PAROCHIAL DISPENSARY, from November 1831 to November 1836.

PERIOD.	Number of Cases attended.	Surgeons' Salaries.	Medicines.	Dispenser's Salary, with Boy.	TOTAL.	Average Cost per Case, for Medicine, Surgeon's and Dispenser's Salaries.	Housekeeper's Salary.	Printing, Stationery, Advertisements.	Rent, Rates, Taxes, &c.	Coals, Candles, Gas, &c.	Repairs, Alterations, &c.	Furniture, &c.	Sundries.	Aggregate Total.	Average Cost per Case, computed on Aggregate Total.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
Nov. 1830 to Nov. 1831 -	792	41 6 6	108 3 7	55 - -	204 10 1	5 2	7 17 6	66 14 4	12 2 -	21 16 8	7 11 9	151 13 -	10 5 2	482 10 6	12 2
Nov. 1831 to Nov. 1832 -	1,434	78 13 -½	51 15 7	70 - -	200 8 7½	2 9½	10 10 -	28 15 1	24 8 3	21 1 1	4 - -	- - -	9 7 8	298 10 8½	4 2
Nov. 1832 to Nov. 1833 -	1,279	77 7 -	41 14 11½	70 - -	189 1 11½	2 11½	10 10 -	14 19 2	25 15 7½	12 18 2	1 12 5	- - -	4 9 9	259 7 1	4 -½
Nov. 1833 to Nov. 1834 -	1,071	75 19 5	42 18 4	70 - -	188 17 9	3 6½	10 10 -	11 14 7	22 18 1½	15 9 -½	- 14 -	- - -	7 10 9	257 14 3	4 9¾
Nov. 1834 to Nov. 1835 -	1,229	91 7 7½	42 1 3	70 - -	203 8 10½	3 3½	10 10 -	11 17 10	23 17 4½	16 3 1½	2 18 6	- - -	5 10 11	274 6 7½	4 5½
Nov. 1835 to Nov. 1836 -	1,490	110 9 1½	62 8 3½	70 - -	242 17 5	3 3	10 10 -	12 - 2	23 15 7½	19 5 10	2 14 7	- - -	5 19 3	317 2 10½	4 2¼
														1,889 12 -½	
	7,295				1,229 4 10½	3 4¼						Deduct Furniture - - -		151 13 -	
														1,737 19 -½	4 9

Appendix, No. 10.

FOR QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE 1837.

NAME of CLASS.	Average Number of each Class in Workhouse, per Week.	Total Number of Deaths in each Class.	AGES OF INMATES WHO DIED. Number under 2.	Between 2 and 9.	Between 9 and 16.	Between 16 and 20.	Between 20 and 30.	Between 30 and 40.	Between 40 and 50.	Between 50 and 60.	Between 60 and 70.	Between 70 and 80.	Between 80 and 90.	Between 90 and 100.	
MEN.															
Able-bodied - -	60	4	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	NORFOLK: including Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Erpingham, St. Faith's, FreebridgeLynn, Guiltcross, King's Lynn, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, Swaffham, Thetford, and Wayland.
Temporarily disabled -	20														
Old and infirm - -	177	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	4	3	–	
YOUTHS.															
From 9 to 16 years of age	125	3	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
BOYS.															
From 2 to 9 - -	159	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
WOMEN.															
Able-bodied - -	170	5	–	–	–	1	2	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	
Temporarily disabled -	23														
Old and infirm - -	95	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	4	1	
GIRLS.															
From 9 to 16 - -	137	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
„ 2 to 9 - -	151	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
INFANTS - -	57	11	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
TOTAL of Norfolk -	1,174	42	11	2	3	1	3	2	1	2	4	5	7	1	
MEN.															
Able-bodied - -	84	8	–	–	–	–	2	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	SUFFOLK: including the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Stow, Thingoe, Wangford, and Woodbridge.
Temporarily disabled -	33														
Old and infirm - -	246	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	4	6	1	
YOUTHS.															
From 9 to 16 years of age	195	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
BOYS.															
From 2 to 9 - -	171	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
WOMEN.															
Able-bodied - -	196	5	–	–	–	2	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Temporarily disabled -	32														
Old and infirm - -	209	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	5	6	–	
GIRLS.															
From 9 to 16 - -	148	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
„ 2 to 9 - -	140	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
INFANTS - -	96	15	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
TOTAL of Suffolk -	1,550	60	15	1	3	2	4	1	6	–	6	9	12	1	
TOTALS of Norfolk and Suffolk - -		102	26	3	6	3	7	3	7	2	10	14	19	2	
			29								45				

FOR QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1837.

MEN.															
Able-bodied - -	21	4	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	NORFOLK: including the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Erpingham, St. Faith's, FreebridgeLynn, Guiltcross, Henstead, King's Lynn, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, Swaffham, Thetford, and Wayland, and the incorporated hundreds of Fleggs, Forehoe, and Tunstead and Happing.
Temporarily disabled -	31														
Old and infirm - -	267	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	5	3	4	
YOUTHS.															
From 9 to 16 - -	144	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
BOYS.															
From 2 to 9 - -	182	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
WOMEN.															
Able-bodied - -	150	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	
Temporarily disabled -	63														
Old and infirm - -	176	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	6	–	
GIRLS.															
From 9 to 16 - -	144	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
„ 2 to 9 - -	166	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
INFANTS - -	78	7	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
TOTAL of Norfolk, carried forward -	1,422	42	7	2	2	–	1	2	–	5	3	7	9	4	

QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1837—*continued.*

NAME of CLASS.	Average Number of each Class in Workhouse, per Week.	Total Number of Deaths in each Class.	AGES OF INMATES WHO DIED. Number under 2.	Between 2 and 9.	Between 9 and 16.	Between 16 and 20.	Between 20 and 30.	Between 30 and 40.	Between 40 and 50.	Between 50 and 60.	Between 60 and 70.	Between 70 and 80.	Between 80 and 90.	Between 90 and 100.	
TOTAL of Norfolk, brought forward	1,422	42	7	2	2	–	1	2	–	5	3	7	9	4	
MEN.															
Able-bodied	36	5	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	SUFFOLK: including the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Stow, Sudbury, Thingoe, Wangford, and Woodbridge, and the incorporated hundred of Samford.
Temporarily disabled	40														
Old and infirm	309	16	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	3	8	–	
YOUTHS.															
From 9 to 16	198	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
BOYS.															
From 2 to 9	156	3	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
WOMEN.															
Able-bodied	160	5	–	–	–	–	2	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	
Temporarily disabled	48														
Old and infirm	254	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	2	–	
GIRLS.															
From 9 to 16	140	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
„ 2 to 9	107	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
INFANTS	77	11	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
TOTAL of Suffolk	1,525	53	11	3	4	3	3	1	1	2	5	10	10	–	
TOTALS of Norfolk and Suffolk	– –	95	18	5	6	3	4	3	1	7	8	17	19	4	
			23									48			

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1837.

MEN.															
Able bodied	60	3	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	NORFOLK: including the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Erpingham, St. Faith's, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Henstead, King's Lynn, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, Swaffham, Thetford, and Wayland, and the incorporated hundreds of Fleggs, Forehoe, and Tunstead and Happing.
Temporarily disabled	46														
Old and infirm	304	16	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	5	7	1	
YOUTHS.															
From 9 to 16	178	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
BOYS.															
From 2 to 9	232	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
WOMEN.															
Able-bodied	198	3	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Temporarily disabled	82														
Old and infirm	187	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	4	3	1	
GIRLS.															
From 9 to 16	186	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
„ 2 to 9	213	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
INFANTS	109	7	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
TOTAL of Norfolk	1,795	43	7	3	1	1	2	2	–	1	5	9	10	2	
MEN.															
Able-bodied	67	6	–	–	–	1	2	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	SUFFOLK: including all the Unions, and the incorporated hundred of Samford.
Temporarily disabled	57														
Old and infirm	373	21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	10	8	–	
YOUTHS.															
From 9 to 16	249	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
BOYS.															
From 2 to 9	217	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
WOMEN.															
Able-bodied	238	6	–	–	–	1	1	–	3	1	–	–	–	–	
Temporarily disabled	57														
Old and infirm	302	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	4	–	
GIRLS.															
From 9 to 16	177	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
„ 2 to 9	167	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
INFANTS	106	9	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
TOTAL of Suffolk	2,010	54	9	4	2	2	3	–	5	2	5	10	12	–	
TOTALS of Norfolk and Suffolk	– –	97	16	7	3	3	5	2	5	3	10	19	22	2	
			23									53			

SEVENTEENTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
20 *March* 1838.

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EIGHTEENTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
21 *March* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, That power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

21 *March* 1838.

WITNESS.

Mr. *Joseph Ellison.*

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Mercurii, 21° *die Martii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Hodges.
Mr. Barneby.	Lord Howick.
Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Chichester.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Estcourt.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Walker.
Mr. Freshfield.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Joseph Ellison, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *Joseph Ellison.*

21 March 1838.

5190. Mr. *Baines.*] WHERE do you reside?—In the township of Gomersall, in the West Riding of the county of York.

5191. Is that township in union under the new Poor Law?—It is.

5192. In what union?—The Dewsbury Union.

5193. *Chairman.*] It is in union for registration purposes?—Yes.

5194. Is it in union for the purpose of the administration of relief?—We have not begun yet, but we are expecting daily to be called upon to administer relief.

5195. But you have not yet received orders for the administration of relief?—Not yet, but we have had intimation that we shall very shortly, from Mr. Power, who is residing in Leeds.

5196. Mr. *Baines.*] Have you had experience in the management of parochial affairs?—I have been a member of the select vestry of our township for the last 10 or 12 years.

5197. How has that system worked in your township?—Very well; it is impossible that any law could work better, I think myself.

5198. To what amount, at present, in the pound is the property assessed there, for the relief of the poor?—The rate for the last year would amount to exactly 1*s.* in the pound, supposing you take the property at the rack-rent, upon buildings, and 2*s.* in the pound upon land. A house that is worth 20*l.* a year would pay 20*s.* to the poor-rate, and land that is worth 20*l.* a year would pay 40*s.* It is taken upon a valuation that occured nearly 30 years ago; but we have ordered a fresh one, and it is now nearly completed.

5199. When you first began to take an interest in parochial affairs, what was the calculation in the pound of the poor-rate upon the property that you say now is assessed at 1*s.* and at 2*s.* in the pound?—I should say that 20 years ago, which is as far back as I can recollect any thing about parochial matters, the rate averaged then about 5*s.* in the pound.

5200. Is that upon houses or upon land?—I should say upon houses.

5201. Then, 20 years ago the houses in your township, that were of the value of 20*l.* a year paid 5*l.*, whereas now they only pay 1*l.*?—Just so.

5202. To what do you attribute the very material change that has taken place?—Entirely to the Select Vestry Act.

5203. Will you explain rather more distinctly the difference in the two systems under which the 5*l.* a year was required, and the 1*l.*?—Before the Select Vestry Act was adopted by our township we had two fresh overseers yearly, and we had also what we call a standing overseer; now, the overseers were taken from the trading class, and all that they cared about was to get rid of the office as soon as they possibly could, and the whole of the work was thrown upon the standing overseer, and there was no check whatever upon him; but now the select vestry manage the matters themselves; we have still a standing overseer, and we have overseers appointed, but they are entirely under the control of the

Mr. *Joseph Ellison.*
21 March 1838.

select vestry; our township contains a population of 6,500 souls, which we have returned to the Poor Law Commissioners, and we have 18 select vestrymen; we divide the 18 into sections of six, and we meet every alternate Monday at the workhouse, for the purpose of paying the poor and transacting the general parochial business of the township; and all this is done entirely under the control of the select vestry; the overseers pay the poor, but they pay them, as I said before, under the control of the vestry.

5204. Then a saving has actually taken place in your township, by judicious management, to the amount of 500*l.* per cent.?—The rates have been reduced, as I before stated, from 5*s.*, taking the rack-rent, down to 1*s.* within the last 20 years, and the last year's amount paid to the poor was less than has been paid in our township for the last 40 years; I have looked over the books, and that I can state from my own knowledge.

5205. Are you a guardian under the new Poor Law?—I am.

5206. That law has not yet come into operation in the Dewsbury Union, for the purpose of administering relief to the poor?—No, it has not.

5207. What is the amount of the population in the Dewsbury Union?—I believe very nearly 100,000; I should say rather under.

5208. From what you have seen of the administration of the poor under the old Poor Law, do you think it will be advantageous to have unions to so large an extent as that?—No, I do not.

5209. Over how large a space does that union extend?—I should say, perhaps, seven miles by seven; I reside six miles from Dewsbury myself; I am a guardian; I have to travel that distance when I go; I do not complain of the distance, but of the large amount of population in the union.

5210. You have not yourself experience under the administration of the new Poor Law, and therefore you only speak as relates to the experience which you have had in the management of those select vestries?—Exactly so.

5211. Have you any observations to make as to the mode of administering relief advantageously in the manufacturing districts under the new Poor Law?—I think that the unions ought to be a great deal less than those which have been already set out by Mr. Power; if you take Dewsbury, which is our union, and Bradford, and Huddersfield and Barnsley, you have an average population of upwards of 100,000 souls for each union, and I say that that is a great deal too many; I will give the Committee my reasons for saying so, if they wish to have them.

5212. Assign your reasons?—For the last 12 months I have taken particular notice how many fresh applications for relief we have had per week, and I think you may take ours as a fair specimen of all the rest; it is about midway between Leeds, Halifax, Huddersfield and Bradford; it is as near the centre as possible of the manufacturing district; there I have been born, and there I have lived all my life; I have taken particular notice for the last 12 months as to the number of fresh applications we have had per week, and, as near as I can make out, there is about one fresh applicant for every 1,000 of the population; so that, where a union contains a population of 100,000 souls, you will have about 100 fresh applicants weekly; now this is in ordinary times, when the trade is pretty good, and when all the work-people with us are pretty well employed; but in bad times, when a great number of the working classes are out of employment, I should say you will have five times that amount, or sometimes ten times that amount; I have seen that since I have been a select vestry-man, and in ordinary times you will have to go through weekly 100 fresh applications; I say that is a good deal for the guardians to do; if you do not sift them properly, and examine into them very often, you will refuse deserving cases, and perhaps you will relieve cases that ought not to be relieved; this you will have to do weekly in ordinary times, but when times are bad, when there is a stagnation in trade, you will have to inquire into perhaps 500 fresh applications, or even 1,000. Now, I say, you cannot find any body of guardians in manufacturing districts that will ever do this, because it would take, not one day, but two or three days every week; and you cannot suppose that any man in trade would sacrifice three days a week for the purpose of managing parochial matters; the thing is out of the question.

5213. Mr. *Barneby.*] Are you aware that under the new Poor Law, it is the duty of the relieving officer to inquire into the particular cases of persons who apply for relief before the cases come before the board of guardians?—Quite so.

5214. Would not that diminish the duty of the board of guardians, as compared with

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with the way in which it is transacted at your select vestry?—Only a little; the relieving officer will have to report to the board, and they will have to decide for the future; he does it only for the week, and the decision rests with them.

5215. But the inquiry is made by the relieving officer?—It will relieve their duties a little; but it will still leave more to do than the board of guardians can get through, in my opinion.

5216. Mr. *Baines.*] You say that, in times of distress, in some districts there would be as many applicants as 500 or 1,000; and resting upon that fact, you say that it would be impossible to make a proper investigation into the cases by any board of guardians?—I do say so.

5217. And your opinion, therefore, is, that it would be desirable to have the unions smaller than it is at present proposed to make them?—Most certainly; they will stick fast as they are, I have no doubt of it.

5218. Then you think boards of guardians, formed upon the large principle upon which those are formed, inapplicable to the state of distress in the manufacturing districts subject to those fluctuations which they necessarily are subject to?—I do.

5219. Mr. *Liddell.*] Have you heard of any proposition for paying the respective guardians?—No.

5220. Mr. *Baines.*] In the union that has been formed at Dewsbury has there not been some difference of opinion existing among the guardians as to the probable operation of the law, when it comes into exercise, as to the size of the unions?—No, not as to the size.

5221. Has there been any difference of opinion upon any point?—Yes.

5222. As to what?—As to the expediency of proceeding further with the Act; I will, if the Committee wish it, read the resolution which was proposed to the guardians, and state the result of it.

5223. Will you do so?—A great many of the guardians of this union are of opinion that we had better proceed no further with the Act, and I am of that opinion myself, therefore I placed a notice upon the book to the following effect, to be taken into consideration at the next meeting of the guardians:—"The guardians of the poor for the Dewsbury Union having so far complied with the requirements of the new Poor Law Amendment Act as is needful for the working of the Marriage and Registration Acts, and having given instructions for fresh surveys and valuations of such townships comprised within the union as require it, are of opinion that it is neither expedient nor necessary to carry the Amendment Act into further effect in this union:—1. Because no abuse in the management of the poor, or in the administration of the old law, doth exist, calling for the abandonment of it; 2. Because an immense majority of the rated inhabitants are opposed to the change; 3. Because the great bulk of the labouring population residing within this union are engaged in manufacturing pursuits, and in time of severe distress, arising from want of employment in consequence of the stagnation in trade, it will be exceedingly difficult, if not altogether impracticable, to carry the provisions of the Act into effect in the district forming the Dewsbury Union, as the amount of pauperism varies with the demand for labour, which latter is entirely regulated by the state of trade;" that was the motion which I placed upon the journals.

5224. What was the result of that motion?—After I had done this I never mentioned the subject afterwards to any guardian whatever; but the *ex-officio* guardians of that union, I know, took particular pains to bring as many guardians to the meeting as possible, and the result was that 16 guardians met, and when they came to divide upon it, eight voted for this proposition and seven voted against it, but the chairman, who had never before voted since the union was formed, then voted against it, which made us eight and eight, and in order to turn the scale he gave the casting vote.

5225. Mr. *Estcourt.*] In favour of the law?—Merely in favour of not passing this resolution; the guardians all agree that the union is a great deal too large, and that to make the law work well it ought to be much less; the reason that they assigned for not agreeing to this resolution was, "We are sure to have the law, therefore we think it is not expedient to pass the resolution, but let us do all in our power to modify it, and make it work as well as possible." After I had proposed this they requested that I would still continue to act, and I told them I would, and that if we are to have the law, I would endeavour to extract as much good from it as possible.

5226. Mr. *Baines.*] Is that the determination of the other guardians?—No; I

Mr. *Joseph Ellison.* am sorry to say that nearly all the seven have declared their intention of not acting again.

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5227. Mr. *Barneby.*] What number of guardians have you, including *ex-officio* guardians?—Twenty-four or twenty-six.

5228. Mr. *Liddell.*] Did I understand you rightly when you stated that, although your resolution was negatived by a majority of one, the chairman giving two votes, yet the whole board of guardians expressed their concurrence in your opinion, that the union was too large for practical operation?—If I say the whole, I am going, perhaps, too far, but if I say a large majority, I am quite right; in fact, they all concur in that opinion in the West Riding of Yorkshire, that the unions will be too large, and that they will be unmanageable; that is almost the universal opinion.

5229. Unmanageable from the great extent of the population that the union contains?—Yes, and from the number of fresh applications you will have weekly; they cannot be sifted or gone into.

5230. Mr. *Barneby.*] You are aware that the chairman has, in all cases, a right to vote, and also to give a casting vote?—I am.

5231. Mr. *Fielden.*] You stated that there were 16 guardians present at the meeting you spoke of, and in the whole you state that there are 24 or 26; do you know what were the opinions of the guardians who did not attend?—Yes, I do; I happen to know what the opinions of the absent guardians were; I believe, if they had been present, they would all have voted for my proposition; they were in favour of it.

5232. Had all the guardians, then, been present, you have reason to believe that the majority of those guardians would have voted for your proposition?—I have every reason to believe that the majority would.

5233. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you think it would tend to facilitate the introduction of the new system into your district, by diminishing the size of the unions, both as to distance and as to number?—As to number, certainly; I understand you in reference to the population; the distance is not very material; as it is now I am the farthest of any guardian in the union from Dewsbury; to men of business the time is very important, and the whole of the guardians with us, or nearly so, are men that are engaged in business.

5234. Has there not been a good deal of opposition made to the introduction of the Poor Law in your neighbourhood?—There has been no active, no physical, opposition, not in our union; certainly the introduction of the law is very unpopular.

5235. Was there not a very large meeting held in your neighbourhood last Easter, upon that subject?—Yes, there was.

5236. By how many people might that meeting be attended?—If I must give my opinion, I should say from 50,000 to 70,000; it was a very large meeting.

5237. What was the general nature of the resolutions passed at that meeting?—I did not attend the meeting myself, and I can only speak to the general purport of the meeting; I looked at the meeting, at a distance of about two miles, through a glass from a hill, and I could see that there was an immense multitude; but I went no nearer.

5238. What was the general purport of the resolutions passed at that meeting?—To petition for the repeal of the new Poor Law altogether.

5239. Were the persons who took a leading part in that meeting persons connected with the neighbourhood, or were they persons from a distance?—They were chiefly persons from a distance.

5240. Were there any respectable people connected with the neighbourhood, that took any part in it?—No, not beyond mere curiosity.

5241. Then it was not a meeting composed of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, interested in preventing the adoption of the Poor Law, but it was rather a meeting of persons brought from a distance upon that subject?—No, the great bulk of the meeting was not brought from a distance; but I should say, that perhaps nine-tenths of the people that were there went out of curiosity to see what we should call the lions; the day was a very fine one, and it was a holiday.

5242. Were the lions resident in the neighbourhood, or were they from a distance?—Pretty nearly all foreigners; there was Mr. Oastler there, from Huddersfield; and there was a clergyman from my immediate neighbourhood, of the name of Bull. Mr. Bull, when he saw the parties upon the hustings, and when he knew the resolutions which they intended to submit, declined appearing upon the hustings at all.

5243. Mr. *Fielden.*] At the meeting which you have alluded to, you say the great bulk were not from a distance?—I do.

5244. Then the great body of the meeting were persons residing within a short distance of the spot where the meeting was held?—Within eight or ten miles.

5245. Do you recollect how the meeting was called, what advertisement was put up?—I dare say I have seen it, but I do not remember the particulars.

5246. Was it a meeting of the freeholders, rate-payers, and inhabitants of the West Riding of the county of York?—I believe it professed to be; I think it was called in that way.

5247. The West Riding of the county of York extends a great deal farther than ten miles from the spot where the meeting was held?—Yes; but the manufacturing district does not.

5248. Have you not reason to know that at that meeting there was a great assemblage from all the manufacturing towns within eight or ten miles of that spot?—No, I do not know that I have; I may have heard so, but if I have I have forgotten; the thing did not interest me much at the time.

5249. When you speak of strangers that were there, how many do you suppose there were of those strangers present at that meeting?—I cannot answer that question; that there were both freeholders and rate-payers I have no doubt, and that there was one clergyman; but the great bulk of the meeting, I should say nineteen-twentieth's, were composed of the labouring classes, and perhaps the remaining twentieth went out of curiosity.

5250. Are not all the labouring class rate-payers?—Those that are housekeepers.

5251. And a great proportion are housekeepers, are they not?—A great proportion are not; for instance, take a married man, with a family of six or seven children, the head of the family will pay the rates, and the children that are grown up, that live with him, do not pay the rates, so that I will engage to say that you will have a much larger proportion that do not pay the rates than do pay the rates.

5252. Is it the prevailing practice, that all persons occupying a house in that neighbourhood pay rates?—In our township it is.

5253. All persons occupying land pay rates?—Undoubtedly.

5254. Then, taking a distance of ten miles from the spot where the meeting was held, was not there a large assemblage of persons that were directly interested in the subject for which the meeting was called, that of obtaining the repeal of the Poor Law?—The working classes generally felt interested in the meeting, but a great proportion of the meeting were females; they do not pay rates, except women that occupy houses themselves.

5255. What do you mean by a great proportion; do you mean to say that there were more females than men in the meeting?—I was told so; and in looking at it I could see a vast number of women; all the girls in the country were there; there were not less than from 20 to 30 bands of music, and they attract a large concourse of people, especially young men and young women; and there was an immense concourse of young men and young women at that meeting.

5256. Were there at that meeting a great number of respectable inhabitants of the district, occupiers of land and occupiers of houses?—There were some; I cannot tell the number that went out of curiosity; several of my friends and relations went, and that was the prevailing feeling among the respectable classes; they went to see the show, and those wonderful men that were come to make wonderful speeches.

5257. At all out-door meetings held in the manufacturing districts, is it not the custom for females to attend as well as males?—There are few public meetings in the West Riding, but females do attend, but not always in such large numbers as did attend at this meeting.

5258. You were not nearer to the spot than two miles, and you made your observations through a glass?—I did; I could hear the music very distinctly, and I could hear the shouting.

5259. Do you think that persons at the spot at the time would have a better opportunity of judging of the probable number than you would where you stood?—Undoubtedly; mine was a random guess.

5260. Have you not heard of the number being estimated much higher than 70,000 or 80,000 who attended that meeting?—Yes, and much lower also.

5261. What is the lowest estimate you have heard?—About 40,000.

5262. What was the highest estimate you have heard?—I have heard people say there were 200,000, some even more than that, but people who were no judges of numbers.

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5263. Any persons being upon the spot would have an opportunity of ascertaining more correctly what their numbers were, and they could not think that 40,000 would be 200,000, or 200,000 as low as 40,000?—A great number of people can form no correct idea of a congregated number.

5264. It is a large piece of common ground on which this was held, is it not?—Yes, I know the ground well.

5265. And it is very difficult to judge of the number to any body on the spot?—Yes, for the meeting was very much scattered over the common, and the reason was, as stated to me by my nephew, that if you endeavoured to get near the hustings, you were almost squeezed to death; therefore, the day being very fine, and the bands being on the common, the meeting was very much spread out; there were booths upon the common, selling refreshments, and it was altogether a holiday; those that could not hear, they thought it no use being squeezed and pressed together upon a very hot day, therefore they drew back to where the music was playing.

5266. Does it come within your knowledge that there were at that meeting men of all parties in politics who attended?—I believe there were.

5267. Do you believe that there were men of all parties that went there for the purpose of obtaining what was the object of the meeting, to petition the House of Commons for a repeal of the Poor Law Amendment Act?—I believe they went mainly for the motive I have before stated, curiosity; I know that there were Tories there, and I know that there were Whigs there, and I know that there were Radicals there; this I know of my own knowledge.

5268. Do you know that there were a great number of respectable people there of all those parties?—There were some, and perhaps I shall not say too far, if I say a considerable number; curiosity was a great deal excited.

5269. Do you know the reason why Mr. Bull, whom you have mentioned, did not go to the hustings upon that occasion?—I have stated the reason already, as far as I know it, that he did not agree with the resolutions which were to be proposed. I understood that they were of too violent a character for him, and that there was some disagreement amongst the speakers themselves; they could not exactly agree as to what they would propose.

5270. What were the resolutions that you are now referring to?—I cannot tell; I did not expect to be examined upon this at all, but I am speaking merely from memory; I will state every thing as far as I can recollect.

5271. Are you aware that at that meeting there were a number of individuals who wished to bring forward resolutions of a character different from that for which the meeting was called, and altogether foreign to it?—I think that I have heard that there was some difference of opinion, but I cannot state what the difference was.

5272. Were there a number of individuals there who wished the meeting to entertain the questions of universal suffrage, annual parliaments, and vote by ballot?—I cannot speak to that positively; as I before stated, I did not take much interest in the meeting myself; I was not nearer than two miles, and being a meeting that soon died away, like all other nine-days' wonders, I have forgotten the prominent parts of it; such parts as I can recollect I will state.

5273. You are aware that the meeting was not advertised for the purpose of discussing any other question but petitioning Parliament for the repeal of the Poor Law Amendment Act?—I cannot speak to the specific object for which the meeting was called, never intending to attend it myself.

5274. Are you acquainted with Mr. Bull at all?—Slightly; I have heard him preach repeatedly, and speak.

5275. Has he ever told you what were his reasons why he did not go on the hustings?—No; he told my relative, at whose house he called, as he returned from the meeting, and that relative told me; and of the correctness of what I have stated, I feel as confident as if Mr. Bull had told me himself.

5276. What you have stated is, that he was dissatisfied with some of the resolutions?—Yes; and I think, also, with some of the parties on the hustings; he did not like to be seen amongst them.

5277. Has Mr. Bull told you that he was dissatisfied with the calling of the meeting for the purpose of petitioning Parliament for the repeal of the Poor Law Amendment Act?—I cannot speak to that.

5278. Do not you think that Mr. Bull has taken considerable pains to assist in getting up petitions for the repeal of that Act?—I understand that he has.

5279. Were not his reasons for absenting himself from the platform, because an attempt

attempt at diversion was made to obtain the passing of resolutions for another object than that for which the meeting was called?—I can state no more upon that subject than I have already stated.

5280. I have gathered, from what you have said, that there is a strong feeling prevailing in the West Riding against the introduction of this new Poor Law?—Yes.

5281. What are the objections generally stated to the introduction of that law?—The objections are, that they think it will work worse for them, both the rate-payers and the paupers, than the old law.

5282. Are they generally, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, as far as you are acquainted with them, satisfied with the working of the old law?—Very generally.

5283. Do the people there think that they are competent to manage their parochial affairs in as good a manner as they can be managed, justice being done both to the rate-payers and the poor?—Undoubtedly, they do think so.

5284. Do they think that, if they come under the operation of this new law, the rates, instead of being diminished, will be augmented?—They think that they will be augmented, and I think so, speaking of our own township and that district.

5285. Is the opinion, then, of the people in the West Riding, that no saving can be effected by the introduction of the new law, without doing injustice to the poor?—That is the opinion in the neighbourhood where I reside; indeed, it is impossible that you can reduce the rates lower than we have done without giving over to afford relief at all; we have done the thing as fine as it can be done.

5286. You are speaking of the operation of the old law in Dewsbury?—I am speaking of the township where I reside; I wish to confine my observations to what I have experienced myself, and know from my own experience and knowledge.

5287. That is Gomersall?—Yes; the amount paid to the poor in the year ending 1837 was less than has been paid to the poor for the last 40 years, and this, too, in the face of a very rapidly increasing population, and also a great increase in rateable property in the shape of new erections.

5288. Was not the last year, of which you are speaking, a season of considerable commercial embarrassment in your township?—The trade was not so good as I have known it.

5289. Was there any deficiency of employment amongst the poor?—There was, certainly.

5290. Was there any reduction of wages during that period?—I should say not; we do not do that unless we cannot get on without it.

5291. But there was a scarcity of work?—There was.

5292. Notwithstanding that scarcity of work, your poor-rates have been so low as 1*s.*, upon the rack-rent, for buildings, and 2*s.* for lands?—Yes, in the last year.

5293. That being the case, you think you have good reason to believe that you could not have the law more satisfactorily conducted, both for the rate-payers and the rate-receivers, than it has been during the last year under the operation of the old law?—We do think so; and at a late meeting of our select vestry every one concurred in the answer I have just now given to you, that under no system of management could things be carried on more satisfactorily, both to the rate-payers and to the paupers; and this is the opinion of nineteen-twentieths of the rate-payers of that township where I reside. The general feeling is this, "What a pity that a system that has worked so well, and has produced so much good, should be now broken up!" That is the universal exclamation. I am not speaking of the working classes, for they do not understand these things; but amongst the most respectable portion of the rate-payers, the clergymen and such gentry as we have, and the principal rate-payers, that is the universal feeling. Indeed, you need not be surprised at that, when the rates have been reduced, within the last 20 years, to the amount that I have stated. The clergy are, I believe, to a man, opposed to the new law; they have seen the good effects of the old system, and are satisfied that it cannot be improved upon; but I am speaking always of the Select Vestry Act; that was the greatest improvement that ever took place in the Poor Law, so far as regards manufacturing districts.

5294. Mr. *Walker.*] Are you of opinion that where the Select Vestry Act is introduced the same good management always prevails in the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire?—Yes, I know it to be the case.

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5295. Do not you believe that there is the same dissatisfaction in those districts with respect to the introduction of the new law?—Undoubtedly.

5296. They are afraid that an increase of expenditure will arise from the establishment of a new staff of officers; and they also object to taking from the rate-payers the control of the finances which have been expended with great satisfaction to all parties?—Yes, the select vestry is no expense to the rate-payers; they act gratuitously.

5297. *Chairman.*] Have you a paid overseer?—Yes.

5298. Does he act gratuitously?—No; I am speaking of the select vestry.

5299. Do not the board of guardians act gratuitously?—Yes, I believe they are to do so.

5300. Mr. *Walker.*] To what do you attribute the rate of increase apprehended from the introduction of the new Poor Law?—To the salaries which will be to be paid to the establishment; a large amount will have to be paid in salaries.

5301. Will there be a greater amount of salaries paid, in proportion, from the introduction of the new Poor Law, than under the system you now pursue in your township?—I think there will.

5302. Can you explain how that will arise?—In the first place, you have to pay the clerk a salary.

5303. What will be his salary from the union?—We have not determined that with us, but at Halifax they have decided to give the clerk there 140*l.* a year, and I should say we should give the clerk about the same.

5304. How many relieving officers shall you have in your union?—I think we ought to have four at least.

5305. What will be the salary of each?—About 100*l.* a year each.

5306. That will make 400*l.*?—Yes; and we are to have assistant-overseers besides.

5307. How many?—I should say, four.

5308. At what salaries?—At the same, I should say.

5309. What will be the charge for the medical officers of the union?—I cannot speak to that myself.

5310. What do you suppose will be the salaries to be paid to the medical officers for attending upon that union; can you state some probable sum?—I can only form a very vague opinion upon that, and I must be wide of the mark.

5311. Do you think you shall have more than two medical officers to look after that union?—Yes, I think we ought to have half a dozen, myself.

5312. *Chairman.*] How many have you now?—In our township we have one.

5313. What is the population of that township?—Six thousand five hundred.

5314. Do you know what medical attendance there is in the other townships?—No; a great number have not medical men.

5315. Mr. *Wakley.*] If the township contained double its present population, do you believe that one medical practitioner would be sufficient to attend the poor of that district?—Yes, and a great deal more; the medical practitioner that we have does that, beyond his present practice.

5316. Mr. *Barneby.*] What salary do you give to the medical man?—The last we gave was 18*l.* a year; when we began we gave 30*l.* a year; we had three resident practitioners in the township, and one or two interlopers, young men that came into the district; and there was such competition amongst them, the young men offered to do it for less than the regular medical men, that the salary has been reduced from 30*l.* to 18*l.* a year.

5317. *Chairman.*] That was before the new Poor Law was introduced?—Yes.

5318. Mr. *Barneby.*] Have you any vestry clerk?—No.

5319. Mr. *Walker.*] What salary do you suppose would be paid to the medical officers of the union?—If we have six medical officers, I think it would be done at a salary of 40*l.* each.

5320. That would be 240*l.*—Yes; I think you ought to add a large sum for what I call sundries, which I cannot reckon.

5321. What will that consist of?—Stationery, and so on.

5322. Of how many townships does your union consist?—It contains 11 townships.

5323. And in each of those townships you have a standing overseer?—No, not in all the townships; in some townships they have no standing overseers; but the overseers there are appointed annually, and perform the duty themselves.

5324. Can

5324. Can you ascertain in what townships there are gratuitous services, and in what townships there are paid overseers?—No; I can only speak to my own township and the neighbouring townships.

5325. Will you state in your own township what the expenses are of the standing overseer?—He receives a salary of 50*l.* a year.

5326. How much do you pay for medical relief?—We did pay 18*l.* a year, but the paupers got to be very much dissatisfied; they had no faith in the physic, and they also complained that the last medical officer treated them with great rudeness and incivility; this complaint was made repeatedly by the paupers to the select vestry; the complaints were made so repeatedly that the select vestry held a meeting on the subject, and they determined that the paupers in the workhouse, who, on the average, never exceed a dozen, should select their own medical officers; that when they were ill, and required a medical man, they should send for any resident medical man that they thought fit, and we would pay him in the usual course; and the out-paupers, who are ten times more numerous than the in-paupers (in fact, the only class of paupers that we have in the workhouse are the aged and cripples), the out-paupers that required medical relief, we determined to give them money instead, and that they should go and buy the physic just where they thought fit; and I must say, that this plan has given almost universal satisfaction to the paupers; and instead of paying 18*l.* a year, it has not cost us for the last two years more than 10*l.* a year; so that we have been gainers to the amount of 8*l.* a year even on that plan.

5327. By giving them money, and allowing them to supply themselves with physic?—Yes.

5328. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Do you mean that that 10*l.* included remuneration to the medical gentleman for his opinion, as well as for the medicines he gave?—The medical men with us are surgeons and apothecaries; we do not employ physicians.

5329. Do you mean that those paupers could go to the doctor and get advice and have the drugs for the 10*l.*?—The doctor was sent for to the workhouse.

5330. And the 10*l.* covered the expense?—Yes; I have stated that we have never had in the workhouse more than 12 paupers at a time, and they are not always taking physic; they are a healthy set, and when they do take physic it is an exception, and not a rule; and when we send for a medical man to the workhouse we pay his bill in the usual course, and that is to pay for his medicine.

5331. *Chairman.*] You have stated that the people in the Dewsbury Union consider that the union will be too large, from the extent of the population, and you have stated the population at 100,000; will you refer to the bottom of page 289 of the Third Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, and at the top of the next page; do you not find that the population is stated there as only 50,232?—But there has been a great increase in the population.

5332. That is taken from the Population Returns in 1831; has there been a great increase since?—Yes, very considerable.

5333. Has it doubled?—No.

5334. Then if it has not doubled, upon what grounds do you state the population of the union to be 100,000?—I stated the population of our union was under 100,000, but, if you take the unions of Dewsbury, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Barnsley, the average population would exceed 100,000.

5335. If you add those together you say the population of each would exceed 100,000, upon the average?—Yes, so I have understood.

5336. The population of the Bradford Union is 94,621, the population of the Dewsbury Union 50,232, the population of the Halifax Union 89,739, and the population of the Huddersfield Union 88,772?—That is in 1831; Bradford has increased amazingly, and Bradford contains now, I know of my own knowledge, upwards of 120,000 souls; there is no place has increased more than Bradford has; Bradford has nearly doubled in that time.

5337. Has Bradford increased more in proportion than the other places?—Yes.

5338. Then it would be difficult to arrive at the average of 100,000 in each union?—I do not think it would, if you were to take the population now; and, I believe, according to the returns which have been made, Dewsbury Union contains upwards of 70,000, I stated it under 100,000; I re-state that the unions that I named

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named contain an average population of 100,000 souls and upwards, and I am quite certain I am under the mark.

5339. Mr. *Walker.*] The township of Gomersal, you say, pays 50*l.* to the overseer, and for medical relief 18*l.* were paid, but it has been reduced to 10*l.*—Yes, we have not paid more than 10*l.* for the last two years, on the system I have explained.

5340. Is there any other expense of management in that township?—No.

5341. Then the whole expenses of the staff appear to be 60*l.* a year?—Yes.

5342. Do you know the amount of your assessment for the last year?—I have it not for the last year; and the reason why I have not put down that is, that previous to that time we had made payments out of the poor-rates, which we have been prevented from doing by the Commissioners; for instance, we paid a modus to the vicar in lieu of small tithes, of 57*l.* a year, and we save 50*l.* a year by it.

5343. Sixty pounds a year you have stated to be the expense of the management of the poor, including the salary of the overseer and the expense of medical relief; there are 11 townships in the union; can you state, to the best of your knowledge, whether 60*l.* will be about the average expenditure of the 11 townships?—No, it will be more; our township is a very populous one; it contains 6,500 inhabitants.

5344. Then it would give too great an average for the other townships?—Yes, much too great; we return three guardians, and there are only two townships in the union besides, that return so great a number.

5345. I may calculate, from an answer given in the first part of your examination, that there is a considerable amount of gratuitous service given by overseers?—The office of overseer is compulsory, it is not gratuitous.

5346. But there is no payment made for those services?—No, no payment at all; where there is no assistant-overseer there is no payment made to the overseer; the office is compulsory.

5347. Is there any township in your union that has not the benefit of the assistance of an assistant-overseer?—Yes, a great number; I cannot say how many, but I should say one-half, that manage their own affairs without an assistant-overseer.

5348. Do you suppose that there are five without a paid overseer or an assistant-overseer?—I think there are.

5349. Then we may calculate 60*l.* a year for the expenditure of six townships, which makes together an expenditure of 360*l.*; and in the other five townships there are no paid officers, but of course there must be medical relief administered?—In a great number of townships they give the paupers money, as we do; and they go to what medical practitioner they think proper; that is the general custom.

5350. How much is given for those purposes, do you think that it exceeds 10*l.* a year, the sum which is paid in Gomersal?—I wish to confine my observations to the township in which I reside; there I have had practical experience for the last 20 years, and I know what is done; and in the other places it is chiefly guess-work, and I wish to hazard as few guesses as possible.

5351. But you know that there is the same system in some of the other townships as in your own?—Yes, in Batley.

5352. And the medical relief in other smaller townships is not, you would suppose, more than what is paid in your own?—I cannot state the amount paid, except in my own township.

5353. Do you know of any sum being paid to paupers in lieu of medical relief?—I do not know any precise sum; we give them sometimes 5*s.*, sometimes 3*s.*, sometimes 2*s.* 6*d.*, as we think the case requires.

5354. Then, from the summary that I have taken, it appears to me that the expenses of the staff of those 11 townships, when they were out of union, were 410*l.*; and that the contemplated expenses of the staff of the union, when founded, would be 1,180*l.* making of course an extra expenditure of 770*l.*?—Yes.

5355. Mr. *Bolling.*] And you would have to add the expense of erecting new workhouses?—We have plenty of workhouses already built; our workhouse will accommodate 100 paupers, and we have not averaged more than 12 for the last dozen years. We prefer, in fact, the paupers residing at home; we find that we can keep them for less; they are more comfortable, a great deal more; the paupers prefer it, and if we can make them comfortable, and save money at the same time, we think it is our duty to do so.

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5356. Mr. *Walker.*] Are you of opinion that this statement could be confirmed by evidence produced from other projected unions?—In the manufacturing districts I have no doubt of it. In the large market towns, I beg to say, such as Leeds for instance, the management has been a great deal worse; they have not managed the parochial matters nearly so well as we have done in what we call the country; and I suppose it is because they have not adopted the Select Vestry Act.

5357. Mr. *Baines.*] Your observations apply altogether to the Select Vestry Act?—Yes, they do; I think that is the best Act that can possibly be applied to the manufacturing districts; and if it was made imperative, I am sure we could very advantageously dispense with the new Poor Law Amendment Act.

5358. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do the paupers make frequent complaints to the magistrates of the manner in which your duties are discharged to them?—No, never; I will venture to say, not once in 12 months do they make those complaints.

5359. Mr. *Baines.*] Upon that question, let me ask you whether you have any magistrates in your district?—We have no magistrates residing in the parish, or even in the adjoining parish; those two parishes contain a population of upwards of 40,000 souls, and we have not a single resident magistrate; but there are magistrates at Bradford and Dewsbury, and when we want their assistance, of course we go to them.

5360. Mr. *Fielden.*] At what distance are you from those towns?—Five miles from each.

5361. Mr. *Wakley.*] What is the average number of paupers within the last year that you had upon your books, both in-door and out-door?—I cannot say.

5362. Could you state nearly; you say you have about 12 in the house?—I may be very wide of the mark if I try to guess the number, but the paupers are very thinly scattered with us.

5363. Have you 30, do you suppose?—Yes, more than that a good deal.

5364. Forty?—More than that; I should say where we have one in-door we have ten out.

5365. What sum was collected in the last year for the maintenance of the poor?—I believe the amount was under 700*l.*, but I have not got it down; I have got all the years from 1816 to 1836, but the last year I have not, for the reasons I have stated.

5366. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you state to the Committee what the expenditure has been in each successive year?—I have taken three years, and have made the average, and then I have jumped 10 years; it was of no use taking the whole; I began with 1814; that would be about the termination of the war; I took 1814, 1815 and 1816; the average of those three years is 2,341*l.* 16*s.*, but I wish to explain that this includes the county-rate, the modus paid to the vicar, and the constables-rate; and we paid that out of the poor; and it also includes the prosecution of felons; and all those items were paid out of the poor-rate; the county-rate has been very high with us till lately. Now I jump 10 years, and I take 1824, 1825 and 1826; the average for those three years is 1,786*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*; that leaves a saving of 554*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, as compared with the former period; in 10 years we have saved that per year; and this was about the time when the Select Vestry Act came into operation; the saving then began.

5367. Mr. *Estcourt.*] When did the select vestry begin to act?—I should say in 1820 we adopted it; I cannot speak exactly, but I should think about that time; we have had it about 20 years.

5368. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you give the next three years?—The next three years are 1834, 1835 and 1836; I jump 10 years; the average is 1,384*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*; that gives a saving of 169*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* upon the former period.

5369. Mr. *Baines.*] What has been your increase of population, comparing the first period with the last?—If you have the returns, I can state exactly; but we have lately made a return to the Poor Law Commissioners of the population at 6,500.

5370. Mr. *Fielden.*] Can you tell what was the amount of poor-rate for the last year?—I cannot tell the precise amount, but I can tell very nearly; I stated before, that in consequence of orders that we have received from the Poor Law Commissioners, we have ceased to make certain payments out of the poor-rates which we had made; for instance, the modus paid to the vicar, the money paid for the prosecution of felons, and the constables' account, and several other small items, and it has brought the expenditure down lower than in fairness it would be if we had continued to make those payments.

5371. Can you tell what the charge was for the county rates in the average of the three years which you have given in?—No, I cannot.

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5372. What was the amount of the modus to the vicar?—Fifty-seven pounds some odd shillings.

5373. What was the charge for the prosecution of felons?—That varies, but I believe it would average 20 *l.* a year.

5374. And the charge for constables?—All the inquests are included in the constable's accounts; and we have a great many casualties, on account of the great number of mills and factories. The amount, I should say, would be 30 *l.* a year.

5375. Can you make a guess that you think will approximate nearly to the truth of the amount of county rates?—I believe we have paid upwards of 100 *l.* a year, but the payments latterly have been less; I could have given all the particulars if I had been aware of it, but not knowing that I should be examined, I of course can speak only generally.

5376. Mr. *Baines.*] But in all those periods that you have mentioned those payments have been made, as well in the former as in the latter periods?—Yes.

5377. When you say that you have received orders from the Poor Law Commissioners not to pay those items in future out of the poor-rate, it does not apply to any of those returns that you have given in?—No, that is the reason why I have not given the last year.

5378. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you any recollection what the expenditure was for the relief of the poor in the last year?—It was under 700 *l.*, less than has been paid to the poor for the last 40 years, for I have gone through the books myself to ascertain that, and that in the face of a very rapidly increasing population; and that is the reason why we say, and most of the rate-payers say, it is a pity that this system should be broken up; a better we can never have, I am very certain.

5379. Can you give an opinion to the Committee whether the same mode of administration to the poor prevails in the different townships which are formed in the Dewsbury Union?—It does in some, but not in the whole; in the Batley it does, and the management is quite equal, if not superior to ours; but our management is, I should say, rather a favourable specimen of the management in our union, at least our *ex-officio* guardians say so, that the management in Gomersal is as good as it is possible to be.

5380. Do you think the management of the townships comprised in the Huddersfield Union is pretty much the same?—I do not know much about that district; I live eight miles from Huddersfield, and I have not any connexions there; but I should say that the management was much the same in the manufacturing district.

5381. Including the Bradford, the Barnsley, and Halifax Unions?—Yes; Bradford I know more about, and I know the chairman, Mr. Leak.

5382. Have you reason to believe that the expenditure for the relief of the poor is administered in the same way in the townships comprised in the Bradford Union?—I should say, where they have adopted the Select Vestry Act it is, but many of the townships have not; they do not like to change to the better plan; but if the Select Vestry Act was made compulsory upon all the divisions in the manufacturing districts, that is the best law they can have; they can form small unions, and manage the poor at little or no cost.

5383. The expense of maintaining the poor in the manufacturing district to which you have alluded, has not been a subject of complaint?—No, not at all.

5384. The rate-payers have generally approved of the practice which has prevailed, and would be well satisfied to remain as they are?—Yes, I am sure they would; they generally say to us, "Give the poor a little more; we pay next to nothing; it is a mere nominal sum."

5385. Mr. *Walker.*] Have you any townships of a rural kind in your union?—Yes, we have, but they both happen to belong to Lord Scarborough; they are entirely agricultural.

5386. Is the management in those rural districts as satisfactory as in the manufacturing districts?—Yes, it is very good; I think the guardians of both those townships voted with me, and they both stated their determination not to serve again if the union was persisted in, and also their belief that you could not get a single guardian to serve from either of those two townships; and that I am afraid will generally be the case.

5387. Mr. *Wakley.*] What wages have the labourers in those agricultural townships?—The wages, I should say, are very good; the demand for produce is very good, as those townships are surrounded by manufacturing townships; they can sell their

their produce at a good price; their milk and their butter, and their stock fetches a good price.

5388. Can you state what the wages are?—I can state what wages they give generally; when they hire a man by the week, the general wages of a labouring man would be 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, 15*s.* a week.

5389. What can a man in the ordinary employment of the township in which you reside earn, those engaged in trade, when they are fully employed?—I should say, a good workman, that is master of his work, would generally earn from 18*s.* to 1*l.* 1*s.* a week; there are some that would earn considerably more, and indifferent ones that would earn less.

5390. You are speaking of the woollen trade?—The woollen and worsted; in the township where I reside, perhaps two-thirds are engaged in the manufacture of woollen cloth, and the remaining third in the manufacture of worsted stuff goods, merinos and those things.

5391. Are the wives and children employed in the same trade?—Yes, they are; those that are old enough, and such wives as have not families to detain them at home; there are many wives that I know that are weavers at the power-loom, a great number, where their families do not detain them at home.

5392. Do the men earn 18*s.* or 1*l.* 1*s.* a week in the mill?—A great many do not work in the mill; the greater part of them work out of the mill.

5393. Is it the power-loom weavers that earn this?—Women are the power-loom weavers, and the girls; we have no power-loom weavers of woollen in our township; that is confined to worsted.

5394. Mr. *Baines.*] There are various classes, for instance, weavers and spinners and slubbers; do they all earn on the average from 18*s.* to 1*l.* 1*s.* a week, or is that observation applicable to some particular branch of the trade, or applicable to all?—I should say to all the adults.

5395. Mr. *Fielden.*] What is the employment in which those persons are engaged, who earn 18*s.* a week?—Weaving cloth, spinning, slubbing and combing wool.

5396. Is that done in the houses of those poor persons, or in the factories?—A great part of it is done in the houses, very little in the factories, with us.

5397. Mr. *Barneby.*] You have stated that in your townships, in cases of paupers who were ill, you gave them money in lieu of medical advice; what sum do you give them?—That depends entirely upon the necessity of the case.

5398. What is the usual sum?—I think we should never give them more than 5*s.* to lay out in physic; when that was expended they would come again if they wanted more.

5399. Mr. *Wakley.*] Supposing the case is one of a serious nature, supposing the medical practitioner had to visit the person at his own residence, and to visit him repeatedly for a week or a fortnight together, what would be the conduct of the select vestry in such a case as that?—If it were an out-pauper, it would be exactly what I have stated, that a sum of money equal to the emergency would be given to the pauper.

5400. Such a sum as would procure the attendance of a medical practitioner?—Yes, such a sum as we thought would be equal to the emergency.

5401. Mr. *Barneby.*] Upon the average, the sum you state to be 5*s.*?—I do not remember our giving more; but our paupers, as I stated before, do not take much physic; they would rather a good deal eat substantial food.

5402. Mr. *Wakley.*] Is it not the case in your district, where serious accidents occur in a mill, that the mill-owners themselves pay the medical attendance?—Yes, they do.

5403. And applications are made to you only in cases of paupers in an extreme state of poverty?—Only in the cases of persons who are upon the books as paupers.

5404. Do you suppose that applications are made in all cases for medical relief, where the individuals are paupers?—By no means.

5405. You hear of no complaints from the medical practitioners with regard to the low rate of payment in the district?—When the salary had got down to 18*l.* a year, there was only one medical man in the district that would accept the office; the others declined; the thing was drawn so fine that they would have nothing to do with it.

5406. And you had repeated complaints from paupers of neglect and ill-treatment?—We had; they said there was no virtue in the physic.

5407. Mr. *Fielden.*] You think it is better to attend to the feeding of the poor,

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in order that they may not come under the necessity of physic?—Certainly; I would sooner give them food than physic.

5408. Mr. *Wakley.*] Is it your present arrangement that the paupers in the workhouse or out of the workhouse can apply to any medical practitioner they please?—Yes.

5409. But out of the workhouse you give a specific sum for attendance, which the pauper takes with him to procure medical attendance?—Yes.

5410. But with respect to the paupers in the workhouse, they have the privilege of sending for the medical man whom they may select, and you pay the bill?—Yes, the bill is sent to the select vestry, and is paid.

5411. Mr. *Barneby.*] And is the whole amount paid by the vestry 10*l.*?—I believe it is 10*l.* in each of the two years.

5412. Mr. *Wakley.*] If it amounted to 50*l.* would you complain?—No; if there was an epidemic, of course it would be more; but the people are very healthy.

5413. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have stated the population to be 100,000; do you suppose there would be 100 making fresh applications weekly?—Yes, and I have made a memorandum of the number that apply in our township, the average is about one in every 1,000 of the population.

5414. And you apprehend, in times of bad trade, the number of applications would be increased from 100 to 500?—Yes, or 1,000.

5415. And you think it would be very inconvenient for the poor to be put to the trouble of having to go to Dewsbury, those residing at Gomersal, in order to obtain relief, under the new Poor Law?—Yes.

5416. *Chairman.*] When you say that, are you sufficiently conversant with the arrangements under the new Poor Law to know whether the paupers residing at Gomersal would be obliged to go to Dewsbury in order to obtain medical relief?—No, I believe not; they can apply to the relieving officer.

5417. Do you know that the practice in all the unions under the new Poor Law Act is, that he should go at a particular day and a particular hour, to each parish in the union?—I do know that.

5418. Do you know that in cases of emergency application may be made to the overseer or magistrate?—That I know; I have read the reports of 1825 and 1826; and they have commenced operations at Bradford, within four miles of where I reside.

5419. Since they have begun their operations, that is, since they have administered relief at Bradford, what do you hear of the effects of the system?—The effects, so far as I know, will be to increase the rate.

5420. You think so?—Yes, I am sure of it; in the townships abutting upon our township they are giving, in fact, a greater degree of relief than was given under the old system.

5421. Will the increase of rate arise from their giving more relief to the poor than was given under the old system?—It will arise because they do not exercise that discrimination which they can do under the old system, and because of the great expense of the establishment.

5422. Do you hear, in point of fact, that in the townships that abut upon your township, townships that are in the Bradford Union, where the Poor Law is in operation, more relief is given than under the old system?—More relief is given to some of the paupers; they have advanced 6*d.* a week.

5423. Have those cases been cases of relief to the aged?—I cannot speak to the precise description of paupers, but they are those that they think require it, and I think there is a little policy in it.

5424. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you state what the policy is that you refer to?—They do not want the pauper to say that they receive less under the new system than they did under the old; and if we are to have the new law, I think it is a good policy myself to carry it on as quietly and peaceably as we can.

5425. Have you heard any complaints in the Bradford Union by rate-payers?—I have.

5426. What are the complaints that you have heard made against the new law?—I have heard the relieving officers of certain districts, appointed to meet the poor at a certain place to pay them their allowance, and when the poor got there, a great many of them, the officer was gone; therefore they were not paid, and they must either stand over till the next week, or they must follow them, I do not know which; but before, they could always be paid; we never run away. In the select vestries we meet on a certain day, and remain sitting till we have transacted the whole of our business, once a fortnight, every alternate Monday.

5427. *Chairman.*]

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5427. *Chairman.*] Then the paupers, under that system, might wait for a whole fortnight?—No; in all cases of emergency the overseer is empowered to give relief in the intermediate time.

5428. Mr. *Liddell.*] How long did this relieving officer remain in the parish?—I cannot state the time that he remained, but they complained that he remained a very short period; he had gone when they should have got there.

5429. Do you remember what was the hour that he had fixed for his attendance?—No.

5430. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you think it possible for any relieving officer, moving about from place to place, to pay the same attention to the poor, to enter into the examination of whether they are deserving to be relieved or not, that you do in the Gomersal township?—No, I do not think it possible; because he will be required to do more than any man can do, to do it well.

5431. Mr. *Liddell.*] How many relieving officers have you in your union?—We have none.

5432. In this Bradford Union how many relieving officers are there?—I cannot state the number.

5433. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you state to the Committee the course you pursue when the select vestry meets to examine into the state of applicants for relief?—I will explain it as well as I am able; as I before stated, we have 18 select vestrymen in the township; we divide them into three divisions of six each, and we meet every alternate Monday, so that in fact a select vestryman has only to meet once in six weeks; the duty is very light; he can spare that time very well; what they first see to is, that the poor are all paid; the paupers come there to be paid, and are paid by the overseer, under the control and superintendence of the select vestry.

5434. The overseer being present at the time?—Yes, in fact paying the money; the assistant-overseer is also there to report what he has done during the week; if a fresh application takes place, it generally happens that some of the select vestry know the parties of their own knowledge, and know all about them; they know whether they are fit objects for relief or not; if they are considered such, they are relieved according to their wants; if they do not know, they instruct the standing overseer to make inquiries between that and the next time that the select vestry meets, and report to the select vestry; he does do so, and upon his report they act; but, in nine cases out of ten, the select vestry know, of their own knowledge, whether those poor people ought to be relieved or not; we also instruct the standing overseer to visit, at stated periods, all the paupers, to see what they are about, to see if those who have been sick have got well again, and have gone to their work, and to exercise a general superintendence over the paupers; and his business is to do this, and to collect the rates, and transact any other parochial business that the select vestry may instruct him to transact; in fact, he is their servant, entirely under their control.

5435. And for this you pay the assistant-overseer 60 *l.* a year, with which he is well satisfied?—Yes; he is also master of the workhouse; he and his wife reside in the workhouse, and superintend it.

5436. *Chairman.*] Has he an additional salary for that?—No.

5437. Mr. *Walker.*] He is kept in addition to his salary?—No; he keeps himself; we do not find the food for any of the paupers; we pay 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a week for each of the paupers in the workhouse, and their diet is prepared under the superintendence of the master of the workhouse.

5438. *Chairman.*] To whom do you pay the 3 *s.* 6 *d.*?—To the assistant-overseer, for the paupers.

5439. Does he contract for the provision of the paupers?—He and his wife buy it.

5440. Do you pay the standing overseer 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a head, he contracting, for that sum, to feed them?—Yes.

5441. What security have you that he feeds them properly?—We see them every fortnight, and talk to them; they are very well fed, and very well treated, with us.

5442. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you the dietary with you?—No; we have no regular dietary, but we leave it to the man's discretion; there is a good proportion of animal food; they very rarely get dinner without soup and broth, and vegetables; we have never heard complaints about the diet.

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5443. Mr. *Fielden*.] The number in the workhouse is about 12?—That is the average.

5444. You prefer having the parties out of doors to being in the workhouse?—We prefer it and they prefer it; they would take 2*s*. 6*d*. a week to be at home, rather than come in and put us to the expense of 3*s*. 6*d*. a week; but the aged and the cripples are the persons we have in the workhouse.

5445. Mr. *Wakley*.] Considering that the paupers are so perfectly satisfied with the existing system, and that you, the select vestry-men, are yourselves satisfied, in what proportion do the rate-payers generally desire the introduction of the new law?—Not more than one in 20; if you were to poll the rate-payers to-morrow in our township, I would engage to say you would have 19 out of 20 against it; and those who are for it know nothing of the matter; they are mere theorists that have read the reports that have been printed.

5446. *Chairman*.] You prefer the select vestry system?—Yes; I prefer the system that gives satisfaction to all parties.

5447. Is that system adopted in all the townships?—No.

5448. Why is it not?—Because the rate-payers object to any change.

5449. All change, for either the better or the worse?—Yes.

5450. May not that in some degree influence their judgment in regard to the introduction of the new Poor Law?—I have no doubt of it.

5451. Mr. *Fielden*.] Do you know of there being a worse management in townships where they have not a select vestry?—Yes, a great deal worse management.

5452. What townships would you mention?—The township of Liversedge.

5453. Will you describe the management that prevails in Liversedge?—I will, as well as I can, but I am not so coversant with that; they have had an assistant-overseer without a select vestry, therefore there was no control over the man; he did almost as he liked, and about a year ago, I am sorry to say, that he absconded, and meant to have gone to America, but they caught him at Liverpool, and brought him back to York Castle, and there he was tried, but, owing to some flaw in the indictment, he was acquitted. Now, if they had had a select vestry, this could never have occurred, because the man had 400*l*. in his hands; but we keep the accounts.

5454. *Chairman*.] After the discovery of this delinquency in the overseer, have they adopted the Select Vestry Act?—This happened last year.

5455. Have they taken any steps to form a select vestry?—No; we are now formed into a union, and it is of no use; and the guardians of that township voted against my motion; they described the management as bad.

5456. And they have no objection to come under the new law?—No; but they would prefer the Select Vestry Act; but the new law to them would be a boon.

5457. But they have had an opportunity of adopting the Select Vestry Act, and have not adopted it?—Yes.

5458. Mr. *Wakley*.] Have you contests for select vestry men?—No.

5459. Then the system of plurality of voting has not been brought into operation?—No; there is a meeting of rate-payers yearly to appoint the select vestry; all those who have attended and done their duty are elected again, if they will serve, but a great many retire, from choice.

5460. It is decided by the general agreement of the parishioners?—I never knew any difference of opinion among them.

5461. Mr. *Walker*.] The parish request those who have been select vestry men, and have discharged their duties well, to take the office again?—Yes.

5462. Mr. *Liddell*.] The parish are too glad to avail themselves of the continuance of the services of those select vestry men?—Yes, wherever we have changed, it has been where the select vestry man did not attend, and showed no interest in the matter, and we have chosen a fresh one.

5463. Or when he has voluntarily retired?—Yes; that he can do when he likes.

5464. Mr. *Fielden*.] I see that the number of guardians required to be elected for the Dewsbury Union amounted to 23; you having only one-eighth part of the population of that union, and having a select vestry of 18 residing in the township, can you have any doubt that you have a better knowledge of the wants and the deserts of the poor than those 23 guardians to be appointed in the union would have?—A great deal better; that is the very reason why we object to large unions, because we do possess a much better knowledge.

5465. You can much sooner check any abuse, if any abuse should be deemed to prevail?—Undoubtedly.

5466. You

Mr. *Joseph Ellison.*

21 March 1838.

5466. You are better acquainted with the wants and feelings of the poor, and the disposition of the rate-payers, than 23 guardians acting for 50,000 could be?—A great deal.

5467. And that is one of the strong reasons which prevails in the north against the introduction of the new Poor Law?—It is a very strong reason.

5468. Mr. *Walker.*] Are you not of opinion that the feeding the poor by the keeper of the workhouse is a very bad system?—If it was on a large scale, I should say perhaps it was; but when you have a dozen old people, and know the overseer and superintendent yourself, we think it is the best plan, and the paupers are perfectly satisfied. If all the paupers were in the workhouse, then I should say the system had better be changed; but being so few, it is not worth while.

EIGHTEENTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
21 *March* 1838.

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NINENTEENTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
23 *March* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, That power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

23 *March* 1838.

WITNESSES.

Henry Musgrave Musgrave, Esq. - - - p. 1

Daniel Goodson Adey, Esq. - - - - - p. 1

Mr. *James Turner* - - - - - - - p. 21

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Veneris, 23° *die Martii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Hodges.
Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Scrope.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Henry Musgrave Musgrave, Esq., called in; and Examined.

H. M. Musgrave, Esq.

23 March 1838.

5469. *Chairman.*] YOU are chairman of the Ampthill Union?—I am.

5470. How long have you been chairman of the union?—Ever since the formation.

5471. When was it formed?—The 16th of April 1835.

5472. What is the population of that union?—Fourteen thousand three hundred and fifty-seven.

5473. What number of parishes are there in the union?—Nineteen.

5474. What is the size of the union, do you suppose?—Area 42,592 acres.

5475. Is the place where the board of guardians meet central in the union?—Nearly so.

5476. What is the greatest distance that any parish is placed, as far as you can recollect, from the workhouse?—The parish in which I reside is at the greatest distance from the workhouse, and Shillington does not exceed the distance of seven miles from the workhouse; it is described as two parts of Shillington in the book; the footway is about six miles.

5477. There is no parish farther from the workhouse than that?—That is the farthest.

5478. What was the expenditure upon the poor at the time of the formation of the union?—The average expenditure, taking the years 1832-33 and 34, was 14,602*l.*, at about 20*s.* 4*d.* per head upon the whole population of the union.

5479. What has been your expenditure since the formation of the union?—Eight thousand eight hundred and seventy-four pounds.

5480. Was that the expenditure of the last year?—No, the average expenditure of the three years since the formation of the union; in making that answer, I have referred to the relieving officer, who is in possession of the books.

5481. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do the years in each case end in March?—Yes.

Daniel Goodson Adey, Esq., called in, and Examined.

D. G. Adey, Esq.

5482. *Chairman.*] HAVE you the means of telling the Committee what number of persons were receiving parochial assistance at the time of the formation of the union?—Not at the date of the union, but at the date of my examination I can; I have gone through every parish book myself, and have taken out every name myself, and have not, in the slightest degree, depended upon the parish officers, and therefore I can speak with the greatest accuracy as to what extent the pauperism was.

5483. You have with you some return of the number of persons receiving parochial assistance; at what time was that made?—I made it in 1834; it applies to the Christmas of the 1833 preceding.

5484. It applies to the state of pauperism at Christmas 1833?—Yes.

5485. At that time what was the number of persons receiving parochial relief in the Union of Ampthill?—The number receiving, simultaneously, for I am not able

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to state the whole number, receiving relief in a quarter of a year (when I say simultaneously, I mean the whole number receiving relief within the month) was 554 aged and infirm, and 1,021 able-bodied.

5486. Is that all?—That is all in the Ampthill Union, making together 1,575.

5487. With regard to the able-bodied, in what shape did they receive relief?—In every way that, I believe, was possible, almost; they received it in making up the wages of labour for every day that they were out of employment, and they received it on account of children, and there were many parishes in that union where at least half the labourers were receiving part of their income from the parish books.

5488. Was there any general scale upon which relief was given to the able-bodied?—No, there were scales in particular parishes, and perhaps there was a scale as to the age of children, but it varied in many parishes; there was no particular scale; there were different abuses in different parishes.

5489. Were there any workhouses within the union?—At Ampthill there was a small one.

5490. In the other parishes of the union were there any workhouses or parish poorhouses, in which relief was in any degree given?—Not in the shape of workhouses; merely as residences, there were two or three, I believe.

5491. Used as parish poor-houses?—Yes, merely as cottages in which paupers were permitted to reside rent-free, or where they were boarded, instead of boarding themselves.

5492. There was, you say, a workhouse at Ampthill; what was the system pursued in that workhouse?—Very nearly the same system as under the Poor Law Amendment Act; they had begun an amended system, and they had carried it out to a considerable extent.

5493. Were they in the habit of using the workhouse in the parish of Ampthill as a test, applying it to the able-bodied applicants for relief?—I do not think that, to a very great extent, they did that, because they knew most of the cases; the district was small, and I do not think they applied it much as a test; and, in fact, they could not, for there was no room at all; they did not apply it as a test, except to some few people; there was no space.

5494. Were they, in the parish of Ampthill, in the habit of giving relief for lost time, or for the number of children, or in any other way, to able-bodied labourers?—I believe, in a slight degree, they did that, but it was very much modified; they had been copying some of the Hertfordshire parishes, and it was very much modified when I went there.

5495. You stated the number of persons receiving relief to be 1,575 in Christmas 1833 for the whole Union of Ampthill; can you state what is the number that have been receiving relief in each year successively, or at any period since the formation of the union?—The quarterly returns will give that accurately; I have not them with me, but I can obtain that information.

5496. Can you state the number now receiving relief?—In Christmas 1836 the numbers were 558 aged and infirm, and 25 able-bodied; of those aged and infirm 36 were in the workhouse.

5497. Then the number of aged and infirm receiving relief appears to be pretty stationary?—It is, and that is pretty nearly the same throughout the county.

5498. The reduction of the numbers of able-bodied receiving relief appears to be very great?—Yes.

5499. That reduction has taken place within the Union of Ampthill since the introduction of the new law?—Certainly.

5500. Was that reduction made at once, or was it made gradually?—As far as regards the able-bodied, the guardians, having the example of the parish of Ampthill before them to act upon, almost immediately adopted the plan of refusing relief to the able-bodied, except in the workhouse; as far as they could carry out the principle, it was carried out at the moment.

5501. Have the Commissioners issued any rule, prohibiting out-door relief to the able-bodied, within the union of Ampthill?—No rules have been issued except the original five rules.

5502. At present, up to this moment, the board of guardians at Ampthill are acting upon their own conviction of the propriety of refusing relief to the able-bodied

bodied out of the workhouse, and not under any orders of the Commissioners?—Certainly.

5503. As far as you have had an opportunity of observing, what has been the effect of withdrawing this out-door relief from the able-bodied labourers within that union?—The general effect of that has been, I cannot have the slightest doubt, that those men now obtain employment who did not before obtain it; you now never see them idling about, whereas formerly they were constantly idling about for months together; that is the general effect, I perceive, in going round the country; for when I first went into the union there was hardly a place into which I was not afraid of entering, lest I might be mobbed, but there is no such thing now.

5504. Were there, when the union was first formed, a great number of able-bodied who found a difficulty in obtaining employment?—There can be no doubt that a great number were out of employment, and I believe the reason why I was sent into that county was, because there were so many that the magistrates were in a state of alarm respecting them.

5505. Confining yourself to the Ampthill Union, have you understood that the amount of employment has very much increased?—That is the general information, from every body, that has been given to me, that the employment has greatly increased.

5506. The employment upon the land?—Yes.

5507. Is it exclusively an agricultural district?—It is.

5508. Is there any lace manufactory?—I believe there is a little lace, and perhaps there is some little straw-plait, but it is a domestic manufactory entirely; it is carried on in the cottages of the poor.

5509. What was, at the time of the formation of the union, the general rate of the wages in that district?—I think they were then about 8*s.*; but the amount of wages must depend entirely upon the class of people that are employed; if I am asked as to the different classes of labourers I can answer the question.

5510. Take the best labourers at weekly wages?—I should say that the able-bodied men of that class, in 1833, received 9*s.* a week.

5511. The best class of common husbandry labourers?—Yes.

5512. From 9*s.*, have you any statement of any gradation of diminution in the amount of wages?—No; I should say the wages were from 6*s.* to 7*s.* and 9*s.* a week.

5513. These were the wages generally given to agricultural labourers?—Yes; the great body of agricultural labourers will be divided into about three classes, namely, the day-labourers, who would receive one set of wages; the labourers who are also day-labourers, but who come on a Sunday, who would receive an additional shilling, and there would be the task-men; those are the three great classes of labourers.

5514. With regard to the first class, the day-labourers, what wages should you say that they generally received in that district before the formation of the union?—I understand that it was about 9*s.* a week; probably that class would comprise a moiety of the married population.

5515. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you include ploughmen in that class?—I include ploughmen if they are not Sunday people; I do not profess to know much about wages except from having been a farmer myself.

5516. *Chairman.*] Then taking that class of labourers who were employed occasionally on a Sunday, would they have received an additional shilling?—So I understand, that they get something additional, those who come on a Sunday.

5517. For attending to the horses and the cattle?—Yes.

5518. Is there any great number of those?—Yes, probably a fifth or a fourth will get Sunday wages, or if they do not get it in money they get it in milk, or something of that sort.

5519. What could a labourer employed in task-work earn, do you think?—The task-work is various, and, generally speaking, the increase of the wages upon the weekly wages will be about one-fifth by working extra hours in task-work; it is very seldom that I have known a labourer that reached a fourth.

5520. Mr. *Liddell.*] Then they might earn 12*s.* a week?—I should doubt very much whether they exceeded 11*s.*; you may say 11*s.* to 12*s.*, but I doubt it very much; I am speaking from my own experience very much; I know that my own labourers never did.

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5521. *Chairman.*] How many hours a day were they in the habit of working? —From six to six are the common hours in Bedfordshire.

5522. Do those who are employed at task-work work longer?—It depends upon their own judgment and industry.

5523. Then they work from six to six, with an interval of some time for dinner?—Yes; those little details vary in different parishes.

5524. Do you understand that the amount of task-work has increased very much?—I understand, very much indeed; that would be the general information which I have received.

5525. Has the amount of employment for the wife and the children increased much?—I believe it has, with respect to some of the boys, and I know it from seeing it; it is a common observation that the boys were never taken out by their parents when they went to their work, and I now see those boys at work, hedging and ditching, with their parents; I believe that to be the general result.

5526. Do you believe the number of labourers employed upon the farms has increased?—I understand, very considerably; not only increased in point of number but in point of the periods for which they are engaged.

5527. Do you mean that the extent of the hiring has increased beyond what it was formerly?—That they are not thrown out of work in the way that they were formerly.

5528. How were they thrown out of work formerly?—If there was a little bad weather, or a little jealousy in the parish, or any other circumstance arose to make the farmers think that they would lose rather than gain by keeping their labourers on, then they threw them out of work.

5529. Do you believe that practice to have diminished?—I believe so; judging from the relief lists, and from all the information that has been given me, it has ceased greatly even during the late hard weather.

5530. Mr. *Liddell.*] The demand for labour being now steady and constant? —Yes, certainly.

5531. *Chairman.*] The relief in the Ampthill Union is administered under the five rules that have been issued to so many unions?—It is.

5532. Mr. *Baines.*] What was the number in the workhouse at the formation of the union?—At the Christmas 1834, there were 29 in the workhouse.

5533. *Chairman.*] Be so good as to give to the Committee a statement of the establishment charges of the Ampthill Union?—The chaplain has 40 *l.*; the first medical officer of the Ampthill district, 110*l.*; of the Cranfield district, 30*l.*; of the Clophill district, 55*l.*; this is the date of the 25th of March 1837; the clerk and master of the workhouse and his wife have 120*l.* a year; the relieving officer, 170*l.*; the porter, 20*l.*; the nurse, 3*s.* 6*d.* a week and her maintenance; the schoolmaster, 10*s.* 6*d.* a week, and the schoolmistress 8*s.* a week.

5534. Mr. *Barneby.*] Does that include their maintenance?—They live out of the house.

5535. *Chairman.*] With regard to the aged and infirm the number relieved appears to be much the same as it was before?—I believe it is.

5536. Have their allowances been diminished generally or not?—I should think that very little alteration has taken place, with the exception of giving a small portion of relief in bread, and for this reason, that I always find that in every parish that I examined, wherever there was a great pressure of able-bodied persons, there the allowances of the aged and infirm were reduced as low as they could possibly be; and therefore I do not think that there has been any material alteration in the allowances to the aged and infirm.

5537. If the allowances to the aged and infirm, under a system of great pressure from the number of the able-bodied applicants, was reduced as low as possible, and that pressure has been in some degree removed, have not the allowances of the aged and infirm been increased?—I cannot state that, because that would remain with the board of guardians in investigating the different cases, but my impression is, that they have been, in numerous instances; the first instruction I gave the boards was to get rid of extremes as much as possible, one way or the other; to equalize the cases as much as they could.

5538. You mean to equalize the allowance to persons in the same circumstances?—Precisely.

5539. The allowances to the able-bodied having been either very materially reduced

reduced or altogether withdrawn, what has been the effect, as far as you have observed, upon the condition of that class of persons?—I do not perceive any material difference outwardly; all I can say is, that I see more people in the fields, and more people employed generally, and I hear no complaint; I have frequently stopped, when travelling in my carriage, and walked into the fields and asked labourers respecting their condition, and I may mention, that in the riot that took place at Ampthill, the only cry was, "We want nothing but work."

5540. When was that riot?—A riot at the beginning of the formation of the union.

5541. When was that?—In the year 1835.

5542. What was the origin of that riot?—The origin was the change of the allowance system from money to bread; but the general feeling against the introduction of the law was another cause, the men being apprehensive, in fact, of being shut up in the workhouse, and they stated to me most distinctly (I was in the crowd for three hours, in the middle of them, talking to them), that all they wanted was work; that was their constant cry; one of the observations (I am not sure that I shall repeat it accurately) was this, "that the land was in such a state that you might plough a furrow, and drag it from Ampthill to Bedford," meaning that the land was so extremely foul; I have a particular recollection of that expression.

5543. You say that you learn from inquiry of others, and that you have yourself observed a greater number of persons employed upon the farms; do you observe, from your knowledge of agriculture, any difference in the cultivation of the ground, or have you heard that there is any difference in that respect?—I understand that that is the case to a very great extent, from general conversation I have had with persons.

5544. Have you heard, and does it at all consist with your own observation, that there is any improvement in the cultivation of the soil, arising from greater employment of the labourers?—I believe there is no doubt at all of that.

5545. Mr. *Liddell.*] It is better worked, and cleaner?—It is.

5546. Mr. *Hodges.*] Have you lived in Bedfordshire for some time?—I have resided on the borders of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire-above-the-Hills.

5547. Had you resided there long before you were appointed Assistant-commissioner?—I had resided in Hertfordshire all my life almost; but Bedfordshire-below-the-Hills is a different country from Bedfordshire-above-the-Hills, and I knew nothing of Bedfordshire-below-the-Hills.

5548. You were asked whether any alteration has taken place in the appearance of the people; were you aware of their appearance before the new law was introduced?—Certainly; as a magistrate of the county I was constantly seeing those people when they came before me.

5549. *Chairman.*] Are you a magistrate of the county?—Yes, of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, both.

5550. Mr. *Hodges.*] And you cannot see any difference in their appearance?—I cannot see any difference.

5551. Do you see any difference in the state of their clothing?—No, I am not prepared to say that I do.

5552. Are the families of the poor people at all in the habit of going about in their parish begging from house to house?—Not that I am aware of; I have heard of nothing of that sort.

5553. Mr. *Baines.*] You say you see no difference in their appearance; do you perceive any difference in their disposition, in the feeling that exists, as between the employer and the employed?—I should say there can be no doubt whatever upon that subject, judging from the single circumstance, that even those people now touch their hats to you as they pass; before they were always sulky; four years back, if you passed them, they were generally sulky looking people, and now they are civil and polite; I can perceive that difference; that is the only difference I can perceive.

5554. The only difference you perceive is the demeanor of those persons towards their employers?—Yes; and generally there seems to be a degree of civility of manner about them that did not exist before.

5555. Then have you any reason to suppose that there is a more kindly feeling existing between the employers and the employed?—That I can only judge from inference; with respect to my own labourers, I know what was their feeling towards me by my acting differently towards them, from the conduct of other people

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to their labourers; I can mention that at the time the fires took place, my labourers came to me in a body, and one of them told me that, in consequence of my not having lowered their wages by employing them as parish men, my property was as safe as could be, but they would not answer for that of one of my neighbours; I am sorry to say that the labourer who gave me that information was run over by a cart, and has died, or I should be very glad that he should give the Committee information upon that point.

5556. You have spoken of the wages of labouring men as being 9*s.* and 10*s.* and 11*s.* a week previously to the alteration of the law, and previously to the introduction of the union system; have those wages increased since that time, or has there been any alteration at all?—I find that, in 1834, the wages went down from 9*s.* to 8*s.* a week; that they continued at that in 1835; that in 1836 they rose to 8*s.* and 9*s.* a week, and that now, in 1837, they run from 9*s.* to 10*s.* a week; that is the return which I have got from the books of an extensive farmer.

5557. That is the class of labourers that were at 9*s.*, before the alteration in the law?—Yes; precisely so.

5558. With respect to those at 10*s.* and 11*s.* a week, is there any alteration?—They would follow the others, almost as a matter of course, in the same ratio.

5559. You have said, that there is more piece-work now given in the union than there was before; can you form any idea of the proportion of piece-work now given, with the piece-work given before the period when the change took place?—No, I cannot.

5560. The only answer you can give is, that there is more?—That is the only answer that I can give, that there is a great deal more piece-work given.

5561. Then, in reality, in addition to those small improvements that you have mentioned in the rate of wages, there would be an improvement in the income of families, by their having piece-work instead of daily work, because I find, from your previous statement, that those who work by the piece obtain more, by about 20 per cent., than those who work by the day?—Certainly, that would be the natural effect; there are more people employed by the piece, and therefore the effect would be so; they are generally family men employed in that way.

5562. You have also spoken of the children being better employed; can you form any idea of what alteration the children obtaining employment would make in the average earnings of families in that neighbourhood?—I can give you no idea; the calculation is so minute that it is impossible; when a farmer I took great pleasure in endeavouring to calculate those things, and I never could get, with any satisfaction, at the fact how my labourers and their families supported themselves.

5563. That is a very interesting inquiry?—It is a very interesting one, but I am quite incapable of forming any correct idea of it.

5564. You have spoken also of there being a disposition amongst the farmers to employ their labourers more constantly; can you form any idea as to the difference that that would make in the income of the family of a labourer?—I can form no such idea till I know the data, the number of weeks that the man used to be without employment and the number of weeks that they are now in employment.

5565. But my question goes to the point, whether you have those data?—No, I have not.

5566. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you resided near Ampthill for a considerable time?—I have resided for the last seven or eight years at St. Alban's, in Hertfordshire, and I resided before on the borders of Hertfordshire, 14 or 15 miles from Ampthill, where I have some little property now.

5567. You have had constant opportunities of inquiring into the state of the the poor, and ascertaining what their condition is in that district?—Certainly; as Assistant-commissioner I am constantly moving about in that district.

5568. Are you a farmer yourself?—No, I am not.

5569. You were appointed Assistant-commissioner on the first formation of the unions in this district?—I was.

5570. Have you made it your business to attend to that district?—Yes, I have entirely devoted my time to it.

5571. What was the practice that prevailed in the parish of Ampthill with regard to the relief of the poor before the union was declared; how was relief administered?—I believe in the parish of Ampthill they had in a great measure

stopped

stopped making up the wages of labour; I am not prepared to say to what extent, because without seeing the books, and I only saw them four years ago, I could not state. *D. G. Adey*, Esq. 23 March 1838.

5572. Do you know what the rates were in the parish of Ampthill before the union was formed?—The rates were 1,003*l.* in 1832; 1,036*l.* in 1833; and 1,067*l.* in 1834.

5573. *Chairman.*] What have they been since?—In 1834-35 they are 968*l.*; in 1835-36 they are 603*l.*; and in 1836-37 they are 442*l.*

5574. Mr. *Fielden.*] What was the rate per head in the parish of Ampthill?—Twelve shillings and threepence.

5575. Has there been a reduction effected in the rates in the parish of Ampthill?—I understood, considerable, during the last three or four years; but as I had no time to look back beyond the period for which it was necessary to take the averages, I cannot give the information; but I understood, in the last three years before the formation of the union, they had very greatly reduced their expenditure.

5576. Have you not, in your report to the Commissioners, stated the rates in the parish of Ampthill to be 12*s.* 3*d.* per head, at the period of the formation of the union?—Yes, I believe I have.

5577. Do you believe that to be correct?—I do, unless there is an erroneous calculation.

5578. Were the assessments made on the same valuations before the formation of the union that they have been since?—The expenditure here given has no relation whatever to the assessments; I am not capable of speaking about the assessments.

5579. Has there been any alteration in the mode of assessing property since the union was formed?—In all probability, under the new Assessment Act, there has been an alteration; I am not prepared to state whether it has been carried out; I know that there are extreme difficulties in doing it.

5580. But in the parish of Ampthill the rate was 12*s.* 3*d.* per head upon the population, before the union was formed?—Not the rate, but the expenditure.

5581. And the expenditure per head for the whole of the parishes in the union, when the union was formed, you have stated to be 20*s.* 4*d.* per head?—Yes.

5582. How had the reduced expenditure per head been effected in the parish of Ampthill before the formation of the union?—I understand by getting rid, in a great measure, of the able-bodied pauperism; that appeared to be the general result, I think.

5583. Do you know whether the expenditure before they made that alteration was the same as in the out-parishes?—Not from my own knowledge; I did not inspect the books beyond the three years.

5584. If a saving of 8*s.* per head on the population could have been effected in Ampthill parish before the union was formed, could not the other parishes have taken the same steps, and effected a like saving?—The Ampthill parish is rather a large parish, and had efficient people to act; and I believe the whole of the saving was the act of one single individual; that he was the efficient person to do it, although he was assisted, no doubt, by others; but without his doing it it would never have been done, I think.

5585. The rate-payers had all a voice in choosing those who were to manage the affairs of the poor?—Nominally, but not practically, certainly.

5586. What was it that counteracted that in practice?—They never took any trouble about it.

5587. How were the overseers appointed?—I really cannot apprise you in what way they were appointed; the common way was by sticking up notice on the church, and the magistrates appointed them.

5588. You have said that there was a great scarcity of labour amongst the population of that union before the new Poor Law came into operation; has the amount of labour increased generally throughout the union?—So I understand.

5589. But, being a practical man yourself, and living amongst them, have you not had opportunities of informing yourself upon that point?—Certainly not; I have no opportunity of knowing what has been the expenditure of individual farmers, except from what they tell me; and the extent of my living among them is, that I

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am going from union to union, constantly travelling about, and fully employed in the business of the Commission.

5590. *Chairman.*] What has been the impression that you have derived from conversation with the farmers?—My impression is, that the amount of work has been increased generally in the union.

5591. Mr. *Fielden.*] In your second report you state confidently that full and regular employment is given to all the labourers in your district, both in winter and summer?— At that period certainly.

5592. What was the period you were then referring to?—This was the summer period.

5593. But you include winter in it as well as summer, in that statement?—I could only draw the conclusion stated in this report, from finding that no relief was given to able-bodied people in that district, and therefore I, of course, drew the conclusion that they found employment generally, as I ascertained, from various inquiries, that they had not removed from the district; it was only by inference that I could draw that conclusion, and from the general information that I received, that they were almost all in employment.

5594. But living amongst the labourers, had there been any deficiency of employment, would not they have made it known to you?—In all probability they would.

5595. Then at the period you were speaking of, have you any doubt that the labourers had full employment both in winter and summer?—I cannot answer to particular periods, but this report has reference to the former state of the country, and its altered state, and I can only judge from what I generally saw.

5596. Do you not further say, in that report, "that the occupiers are no longer able to obtain labour at an under price?"—Yes.

5597. "That industry has revived, and is reaping its reward; that the idle have thrown off their former habits and have become good and useful workmen?" —Yes.

5598. And you there challenge inquiry among the labouring people into those acts?—Yes, certainly.

5599. Does the same constant employment prevail among the labouring people of the Ampthill Union now?—I have understood, with the exception of a little difficulty in the winter, that that employment does continue, and the general information I receive is to that effect; the inference to be drawn from the little relief given to the able-bodied confirms me in that opinion.

5600. *Chairman.*] You state that there was some little difficulty in the winter; what happened then?—There were all sorts of experiments tried to make up the wages, that they may get labour cheaper during the period of a cessation of labour.

5601. With regard to the condition of the labourers themselves, if they should be unable to obtain private employment, and be deprived of parochial assistance, except through the workhouse, is it your impression that they come into the workhouse and receive that relief, or that they remain out of the workhouse and suffer severely from the privation of relief?—I have no doubt that individuals have suffered; I cannot entertain any doubt about that; but my general impression is, that they have obtained sufficient employment to support them during the short period that they do now from time to time get thrown out of work; I cannot suppose that they can bear beyond a certain quantity of suffering. I have no doubt that there must be suffering, and that they would not go into the workhouse till the last moment; but I have never heard of extreme suffering.

5602. Have you ever understood that persons have been under the necessity of selling their furniture and stripping their cottage of its effects before going into the workhouse?—I have heard from pawnbrokers that a vast number of petty articles, particularly during the last winter, upon the cessation of labour, were brought to the pawn-shops.

5603. Do you understand from the pawnbrokers that those articles were brought from the agricultural labourers?—Yes.

5064. Was that during the last winter?—Yes, and some little during the winter before.

5605. Under those circumstances, if the labouring population, from the long continuation of bad weather during an unusually severe winter, or from any accidental circumstance which deprived them of employment, should be reduced to the state that you have described, what, in your opinion, would be the proper course

course to adopt?—The way in which I have recommended the unions to act is, to take the men in and leave the families out, in order that we may be fully satisfied that the men were not employed at lower wages, and that we might obtain what little return we could in the workhouse; that has been the plan I have recommended.

5606. That plan would be attended with this advantage, would it not, that you take a security that the private establishment of the labourer will not be broken up?—Yes, exactly so; and I think it has this further advantage, that it enables the wife to make inquiries for labour for her husband, and that she gets him work; which, if all the family were in the workhouse at the time, they would be unable, perhaps, to obtain.

5607. Has that plan been extensively adopted?—It has been recommended to all my unions, and I have never known an instance of its having failed to be beneficial.

5608. Mr. *Hodges.*] How do the family subsist?—They are supplied by the relieving officer with bread, as a matter of course; they are all relieved.

5609. *Chairman.*] During the time that the man is in the workhouse the family must, of necessity, be relieved at home?—Yes.

5610. Mr. *Hodges.*] Can you state for what space of time these men are generally taken from their families and shut up in the workhouse?—It is a limited period; I am not aware that any able-bodied man has been separated from his family for more than a fortnight, and there are very few cases of even that; in general they decline even that relief; it is not a new plan; it is a plan that I acted upon before the Poor Law Amendment Act took place, and in one union particularly it was carried out to a great extent before we had the workhouses; having no workhouses, that was the plan that I adopted; it would have been impossible to have taken the families into the workhouses.

5611. Mr. *Baines.*] Does it prevail in other unions besides the union of Ampthill?—I have strongly recommended it to all; it enables a distinction to be made between families of good character; they do not choose to leave out a family of bad character, but they leave out a family of good character.

5612. Mr. *Hodges.*] Would not the necessary effect of this system be, that a man, in order to return to his family, would accept a job of work at inferior wages, rather than be shut up in the workhouse and be under restraint?—I have found this to be the case, that the labourers will not generally accept of wages which will not support them and their families.

5613. *Chairman.*] What do they do if they do not meet with those wages?—I infer they do obtain some means to support their families, or come in.

5614. Mr. *Hodges.*] Is that a practice throughout the unions under your charge?—It is; throughout the whole of my district I have recommended it; and it has been partially acted upon in all the unions.

5615. *Chairman.*] You are referring to a period of pressure?—No; at all periods, but it began in periods of pressure.

5616. Mr. *Hodges.*] Then this is a deviation from the strict workhouse test that is recommended to be enforced in the Poor Law Amendment Act?—It may be a deviation from it, but it is no deviation from the rules of the Commissioners; the peremptory rule has not been issued in my district.

5617. Mr. *Barneby.*] Have you not known cases in which a man and his wife having been taken into the workhouse, they have left the workhouse sooner, in consequence of the wish of the wife to leave the workhouse being stronger than the wish of the man?—I have not known any such cases; there may have been such cases, but I have not known them; I find instances in the books where women have endeavoured to prevail upon the husbands to remain in during the inclement seasons of the year.

5618. Mr. *Baines.*] Has there been any material increase in the population of the Ampthill Union between the year 1833 and the year 1837?—Not that I am aware of at all.

5619. You have been asked, whether the farmers give more employment, and whether they have the means of giving more employment; you have stated that there has been a saving of nearly 6,000*l.* in that union in rates; your statement is, that in the three years preceding 1834, the amount was 14,602*l.*; in the three years succeeding it was 8,874*l.*, making a difference of 5,728*l.*: if there was a saving of 5,728*l.* in the pockets of the rate-payers, who are principally farmers, would they not be enabled to give more employment to their work-

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people, from that circumstance?—That is the reason that I state that there is more employment, and that is the reason for my thinking that there is more employment.

5620. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do you happen to know whether rents have increased since the Poor Law Amendment Act?—I have not heard of any case of that; I am quite sure that the value of property has increased.

5621. But you do not know whether the rents have increased?—No; I have never heard of any instance of rents being raised, but I know one parish where the value of property has increased considerably.

5622. Mr. *Liddell.*] The value of property has increased from the charges upon it being less?—Exactly; in a parish, for instance, where the weight of pauperism was perhaps 40*s.* a head upon the population, no person would think of purchasing while the old law existed, and now, when the extent of pauperism is supposed to be tolerably well regulated, I have no doubt that that feeling will entirely change; in fact, I am told by professional men and others, that that feeling has entirely changed.

5623. Mr. *Hodges.*] Will not the inevitable result of the improved value of property be an increase in the amount of rent?—I should suppose that that must be, by-and-by, the result; I apprehend that would be the case.

5624. Then, in reference to the answer which you gave to a question by an honourable member just now, of the saving of rate to the farmer enabling him to employ more labour, that saving of rate will not be an available balance hereafter, on account of the increased rent he has to pay?—That is assuming that the whole difference goes to the landlord in the shape of rent; I apprehend that the effect of this law must necessarily be to benefit all parties, labourers, farmers and owners; that is the result I look for in the end.

5625. It would not then be safe to consider the whole amount of the saving as so much money remaining in the pocket of the farmer, enabling him to employ more labour?—Probably not the whole of it, inasmuch as I believe there are several parishes in Bedfordshire in which no rent at all was paid, but now I presume rent is paid.

5626. Mr. *Walker.*] In the case of farms let on long leases, if the rate is diminished, it will be a benefit to the farmer?—Yes.

5627. Mr. *Baines.*] If the landlord residing in the union has an increase of rent, is it not very likely that the landlord would be disposed to lay that out in improvements upon his own estate, and consequently in the increase of labour?—I am not at all aware how other landlords stand, but the effect of the charges upon landed property has been already so severe upon many of us, that it will be a long time before we can lay out any thing.

5628. Mr. *Liddell.*] In point of fact, the land is now productive, which before, from the charges upon it, was unproductive?—That is the fact.

5629. Mr. *Baines.*] You have spoken of the suffering in the last winter, owing to the inclemency of the weather; suppose you had had an inclement winter before the passing of the Poor Law, there would have been then considerable suffering among the poor, would there not?—I should think very great indeed.

5630. Then the suffering of which you have spoken is not imputable to any alteration arising from the change made by the Poor Law, but to another cause, that is, the severity of the weather?—Most undoubtedly.

5631. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have the morals and the habits of the labourers improved in the district under your superintendence since the formation of the union?—So I am told; in general conversation with farmers and others, I am told that they are; I have no means of judging myself of the morals of the lower classes.

5632. *Chairman.*] What do you observe in the neighbourhood of your own residence?—I am so constantly moving about that I cannot speak of those near my own residence particularly.

5633. Mr. *Fielden.*] Would not that necessarily be the result of improved wages and improved employment?—It most probably would.

5634. You have stated that work is more plentiful, and that the labourers are now enabled to obtain better wages?—I am not aware that I said better wages.

5635. Have you not stated that there has been a rise of wages since 1836?—Yes, but I do not know that that arises at all from the Poor Law; I have given the rate of wages as I received them.

5636. In 1836 and in 1837 there was an advance, in the first year, of a shilling, and in the second year of a further shilling?—Yes.

5637. Are

5637. Are those the wages now paid generally?—So I understand, in that district.

5638. Would not that increase of income of the labourers necessarily lead to improved circumstances, and to make them better satisfied with their condition?—I should hope it would, if that increase is in proportion to the increase in the price of the necessaries of life; but that is so minute a calculation that I am not prepared to say whether it is or not.

5639. Do you know what the price of wheat was in 1835?—Not expecting to be examined to-day, I have not brought the accounts with me.

5640. Supposing the price of wheat to have been 45*s.* a quarter in 1835, and now 55*s.*, are the circumstances of the labourers at all improved from that rise of wages: suppose a labourer had to purchase wheat in 1835 at 45*s.* a quarter, and was then receiving 8*s.* a week, and suppose he now has to purchase wheat at 55*s.* a quarter, and is receiving 10*s.* a week, is the condition of the labourer improved in his command over wheat?—I must know the proportion that they bear to each other and to his other expenses, before I can answer the question.

5641. What do the labourers live on in your district?—I believe generally wheaten bread is their common food.

5642. Is that bread made of wheat?—Yes.

5643. Is the principal part of what he receives in wages laid out in the purchase of flour with which to make bread?—I do not know how the labourer expends his wages.

5644. But if he lives upon wheaten bread, you must know what the expenditure is?—I only know that that on which the bulk of the labourers are living consists of bread.

5645. Mr. *Liddell.*] Practically, is the condition of the labourer better when he has wages of 10*s.* than when he has wages of 8*s.*?—I should think so; the old men have told me that during the war they were better off; they contrived to do better with what they had then, though provisions were higher in price.

5646. Mr. *Fielden.*] You are now upon an important question respecting the state of the labourers; do you not consider it your duty as Assistant-commissioner to be prepared to state to this Committee what is their condition since the unions were formed?—I conceive it my duty, as an Assistant-commissioner, to obtain all the information possible as to the result of the law, but I do not consider it my duty as Assistant-commissioner to ascertain facts which, before I was Assistant-commissioner I never could ascertain to my own satisfaction at all in any individual case; and therefore I have certainly not taken any pains to know how the labouring classes contrived to live upon their wages.

5647. *Chairman.*] You mean that you have not taken pains to ascertain the particular manner in which their earnings are laid out?—I have not, having taken the greatest pains to make those inquiries before the Poor Law Amendment Act, and never having satisfied myself upon it.

5648. Mr. *Fielden.*] When you speak of an improved condition having taken place with the labourer, what is the criterion by which you judge of that improved condition?—I draw the inference that they are in employment, and therefore that their condition is improved, inasmuch as I no longer see or hear of constant congregations of able-bodied labourers unemployed.

5649. Are you aware that there were constant congregations of labourers unemployed before the new Poor Law came into operation?—I have had them, from day's end to day's end, scores at my door.

5650. What was the reason for their attending at your door?—To obtain relief from the parish, or employment; work was what they asked for; they came to me, as a magistrate, for work.

5651. Did they state the reason why they made application to you, as a magistrate?—They stated that they came for work.

5652. Were they out of employment when they made application?—Most undoubtedly.

5653. What did they apply for?—For work; I can give you no other information than that.

5654. When you could not give them work, what did they ask for then?—They asked for relief.

5655. Did you direct relief to be given to them?—Never in my life; I set myself, as did the whole body of my brother magistrates in my division, against

that; our only order was, that the parish officer should look to the individual cases, and see that the people were not left destitute.

5656. Did they obtain any relief in consequence of applications to you upon that subject?—I have no doubt that they did obtain relief, but I cannot say in consequence of their application to me, for I never granted an order in my life, and it was not the custom of the district where I resided.

5657. You stated, that in 1833, the highest class of day-labourers had 9*s.* a week; what were the sources of income beyond that 9*s.* a week from their families?—I do not think there are two families alike in that respect, and therefore I cannot give an answer to the question.

5658. Did not the practice prevail of giving an allowance out of the rates, for the maintenance of families?—To a great extent.

5659. Do you not know the scales?—No; I have never had any thing to do with scales, and I can give no information, except from the parish books.

5660. Then you cannot tell what was the allowance by any parish?—It varied in each case; it can be ascertained from the parish books.

5661. You are not prepared to state to the Committee what the income was before the union was formed, and what it is now?—I am not prepared to say what it is, for it must be different in every individual case.

5662. Then how is it that you can can speak to the improved condition of those labourers?—I only draw the inference from their not being apparently out of employment, and not deriving relief from the parish books, which they did formerly; I can only draw the inference, I cannot know it from my own knowledge.

5663. *Chairman.*] Supposing that you knew the wages of a labourer, in full employment, you would then know only the amount of his earnings from wages?—Precisely.

5664. Besides those earnings, which the labourer receives from wages, are there not, in many cases, other earnings which arise from additional employment of his own leisure moments, or from employment of part of his family, which are not easily ascertained, and which go to constitute his whole income?—I should say, as far as I know the habits of the labourers, there are very trifling additional earnings made by himself; his whole time is employed at 9*s.* a week; but I can give you no idea of what his wife and children would earn; that would vary in every case, and would vary in every village, according to whether it was lace or plait that was done.

5665. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know whether, taking a man, his wife and four children, earning 9*s.* a week, in 1833, he would receive any relief from the parish in that period in aid of his wages, in the Union of Ampthill?—The habits of the parishes were various; some gave relief after the men had three children, and some four; and some of the magistrates ordered differently; and that is a question that I cannot answer without referring to the parish books, and seeing how the facts are.

5666. But you know that some allowance was given to a man having three or four children?—Most undoubtedly.

5667. And that would make an addition to the wages of 9*s.* a week?—As far as regards the children.

5668. The family would receive more weekly, in consequence of receiving so much of the rate?—That does not exactly follow; if he was out of employment he would receive from the rates.

5669. Supposing him to be employed at 9*s.* a week?—He would receive for a certain number of children.

5670. What would he receive?—That would vary in almost every different parish, just as the parish officers thought proper and the magistrates thought proper.

5671. Can you state what the amount was?—No, I cannot from memory.

5672. But you do know that the practice prevailed of giving a man so much for his children beyond his wages?—Most undoubtedly.

5673. Has that man's income been increased or diminished for the use of himself and his family under the operation of the new law?—You mean, comparing his present income with his former income from wages, and what he received from the rates; I cannot answer the question, because that must depend upon whether his children are employed; if the children are not employed it has not increased.

5674. Take the case of a man and his wife and four young children, all the

children

children incapable of working; has that man's income been increased or diminished under the operation of the new law?—I should think that if that man was in employment he would not formerly have received additional relief for his children, generally speaking, because the scale was in some parishes three, and some four, generally four; therefore his income would not vary, as far as regards his children.

5675. Do you mean that a labourer of that description, before the new law, had to live upon his 9*s.* a week without any assistance from the parish?—Yes.

5676. That relief was denied in that case?—They seldom or never applied, except from the habit they got into of applying in almost every case; I can speak to my own labourers.

5677. Take the case of a man with a wife and five children, all young, what would he have allowed to him?—I believe that one of the scales was, that if the children were above 10, they received 18*d.* or 1*s.*; the common scale was, that after the children were 10 years of age, they received a certain portion of allowance from the rates.

5678. Mr. *Liddell.*] For each child after 10?—Yes, that was the common scale.

5679. Mr. *Fielden.*] What was the allowance?—It would vary from 1*s.* to 18*d.*

5680. For all?—No, for all above a certain number.

5681. Take a man and his wife and five children, earning 9*s.* a week, what would his earnings be made up to?—Assuming that he had 1*s.* allowance, he would receive 10*s.* a week.

5682. Was 1*s.* the sum allowed?—Yes, 1*s.* 6*d.* I think was the sum generally allowed.

5683. There was nothing allowed to a man with four children?—That might have been allowed in many parishes; I have no recollection of any case where they received unless they had three children; but I believe, generally speaking, they received when they had four children.

5684. What is the state of the man now with a family of five children; what would he receive in wages now?—Nothing but his wages, and those are, according to the account I have, 9*s.* and 10*s.* a week.

5685. Are the wages generally 9*s.* and 10*s.* a week in the unions in which you reside?—They vary materially in the different districts.

5686. Will you state the variation?—I think that in Buckinghamshire the wages are 1*s.* less.

5687. Speaking of your unions?—The whole of Buckinghamshire and of Hertfordshire are under my superintendence, with the exception, in the latter county, of part of the east side.

5688. You have stated that in 1834, when the unions were formed, 1,021 able-bodied labourers were receiving relief in the Ampthill Union?—Yes, simultaneously.

5689. You have stated also that in 1836, the number of able-bodied were reduced to 25; can you state the sum that was paid to the 1,021?—No, I cannot; nor should I have formed the unions in Bedfordshire by this time if I had attempted to make that calculation; it took me a week to make the calculation for my own parish; therefore, if I had attempted to do it in all the parishes of Bedfordshire, I should never have got through.

5690. But those labourers must have received a considerable sum?—Yes, they must, in my calculation; I took the average of 10 parishes, and tried it; it is a very loose calculation indeed; but, as far as I can judge, I believe the amount that the able-bodied received was 40*s.* per cent. upon the whole expenditure, but that is merely a loose calculation of my own.

5691. Mr. *Baines.*] Is it not the fact that though you have had no reduction in the aged and infirm, you have had a reduction in the able-bodied from 1,021 to 25, and you have a saving out of the rates of 1,000*l.* a year?—Yes, the saving in the Ampthill Union exceeds 50 per cent., and, as far as I can form any calculation, without going into minutiæ to satisfy my own mind of its correctness, I believe that able-bodied pauperism cost about 40 per cent. of the original sum.

5692. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have further stated that the aged and infirm were in 1833, 554, who were receiving relief, and that in 1836 they were 558; must not the expenditure for the aged and infirm be pretty much the same in both periods?—I apprehend that it is.

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5693. Then the saving in the rates has been almost altogether effected by reducing what was given to able-bodied men?—A great proportion, undoubtedly; my own impression is, from 35 to 40 per cent. of it.

5694. Has the withdrawal of that sum annually from the able-bodied men placed them in better or worse circumstances?—I should consider, myself, and I believe that the able-bodied men generally will tell you, that they are in more contented and happy circumstances.

5695. That you believe to be the opinion of the able-bodied men generally in the Union of Ampthill?—I should say that all the respectable able-bodied men would give you that evidence; if you were to put a leading question to them, and ask them, whether they would like to have 1*s.* 6*d.* a week in addition to their income for their children, they would say, "Yes;" there is no question about that.

5696. *Chairman.*] In what respect is their condition improved?—By their being no longer, as they express it, parish birds.

5697. How are their circumstances improved?—If you mean pecuniary circumstances, I am not prepared to say that their pecuniary circumstances are improved; there is very little difference between their pecuniary circumstances; they now find themselves in constant employment, instead of being pushed from pillar to post as they used to be, that I think they would almost all tell you they are better off.

5698. Do you think their employment is more constant?—Yes.

5699. And that the employment given to the members of the family is more frequent?—I think that the farmers, from their anxiety to keep those men, from their being better workmen, do employ their children; they tell me that they do to a much greater extent than they used to do, and I have heard from the taskers particularly, that they bring their children into the barns, and teach them threshing and laying out the corn, so as to help them out, which they never before were in the habit of doing.

5700. Has the task-work increased?—I should say, very greatly.

5701. Taking those three circumstances together, though the amount of allowance may have been reduced, that the employment of the labourer is greater, that the employment of the family is greater than it was before, and the amount of task-work greater than it was, will not those circumstances tend to an improvement of the labourer's condition?—That is what I say.

5702. Do you think that those circumstances have made compensation to the labourer for the withdrawal of the parish allowance?—Yes.

5703. Mr. *Liddell.*] All that he now receives is the fair produce of his own industry, instead of the accidental relief that he derived from the parish?—Certainly.

5704. And on that account, a man receives that money, so earned, with a greater degree of self-esteem and contentment than in the former case?—I can only judge of the labourers from the expressions used by my own labourers; at the time of the fires, I was constantly knowing what their sentiments were at the time, and I draw that conclusion.

5705. Is there any great distress in the labouring population of those unions?—Not that I am aware of; not, I am sure, to the extent that existed in those parishes when I was examining into them four years ago.

5706. Mr. *Fielden.*] Does the increased employment of the labourers, without increased wages, or increased income, tend at all to make them more contented?—I do not think that any body can reside in Bedfordshire without being satisfied that they are more contented; I, as a magistrate, can answer for that, because there was nothing but discontent, but now we are in a quiescent state; three years ago we were in a state of discontent, now we are in a quiescent state.

5707. Mr. *Baines.*] Supposing a man to receive 8*s.* a week as wages, and to receive 2*s.* as parish relief before the change, and supposing him now to receive 10*s.* as wages, the sum being exactly the same, would he not be better content with the 10*s.* which he received entirely as a reward for his industry than he would with the 10*s.* a week formerly partly received for labour and partly received from parish pay?—I have not the least doubt that many labourers would rather receive the 8*s.* as independent labourers than the 10*s.*; they would have it in preference.

5708. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is it the fact that they now receive 10*s.* a week in wages, whereas before the union was formed they received only 8*s.* a week?—That is the fact,

fact, I believe; I have given the amount of wages at various dates; I have stated that the amount of wages in 1834, was 8*s.*, and that they are now, I believe, 10*s.*

5709. In consequence of this increase of 2*s.* a week, are the labourers become more contented, more moral, better members of society, better fathers, and acting in a manner more creditable to themselves?—That is the information that I receive, that they have.

5710. But you cannot be ignorant of the fact, if it be so?—How am I to know those facts of my own knowledge; I do not go into the labourer's cottage and inquire of him, except occasionally; I cannot tell whether he is more moral or not; it is impossible.

5711. Have you not stated in your reports that the people are more moral and more contented?—Yes; from the information that I received, I believe that they are.

5712. *Chairman.*] Do you know that returns have been made to the House of Commons of the number of criminal offenders in the year 1837?—I understand that they have.

5713. Do you know that from those returns it appears, that in the county of Bedford there is a decrease to the extent of 24 per cent. in the number of criminal offenders in the year 1837?—I have heard that, as a magistrate, but I was not aware that the return was sent in.

5714. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have before stated, in your report to the Commissioners, and I have understood you to confirm it, that the labourers were in full employment, both in winter and summer?—As compared with the state in which I found them.

5715. There is no comparison about it; if they are in full employment it is a question of fact?—Yes; I draw the inference that they are in full employment because I find none of them receiving relief, and I find the county perfectly quiescent; no rows as there used to be, and from the general information that I receive that they are employed.

5716. Are there more or less robberies committed; is there more or less sheep-stealing in the Unions of Ampthill, Woburn and Bedford, than there was before the passing of the new law?—How am I to get at such a fact except I acted as a magistrate, which I have no time to do; I cannot get at the fact of sheep-stealing without referring to the returns.

5717. Are you aware that in that report to the Poor Law Commissioners you have given a statement as to this fact; will you refer to No. 9, page 295, of the Second Report of the Poor Law Commissioners; will you read to the Committee No. 9?—"I am fully persuaded the morals of the labourers are much improved by the new Poor Law system; there seems to be a general disposition to do more for their families, and are more condescending to their employers; wages are 1*s.* per week higher, from the advance in corn. They tell me, 'It was those idle vagabonds that brought about this new law.' I am sorry to say that sheep-stealing and other depredations have been more prevalent since the system commenced than was ever known before; I consider this to arise from those bad fellows who will not work, not being able to get any money from the overseer, as they had been accustomed."

5718. That is the year in which you state that there was full employment for the labourers, both in winter and summer?—Yes.

5719. Will you read the paragraph, No. 10?—"There is a disposition to seek after and retain work; their general habits and manners more to oblige their employers than formerly; they frequent the ale-house quite as much; I think it quite out of the question for a man with a family to save money out of 8*s.* per week; their rents average 1*s.* 6*d.*, and clubs 6*d.* per week; to deduct from that sum, even those who have the ability want the disposition; wages are the same; I think the steady labourer feels more satisfied than heretofore; poaching and petty depredations have increased in this parish double to any former year."

5720. That is in the year when there was full employment for all the labourers in your union, as you have reported to the Commissioners; does that show an improved state of morals?—That is the opinion of an individual whose name I have given; it is not given as my opinion.

5721. Have you not adopted it as your opinion by sending it to the Commissioners in your report?—I sent it as it was forwarded to me; I did not give it as my opinion.

 5722. Would

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5722. Would not any one reading this paragraph at once believe that you were cognizant of the truth of the facts so stated?—Perhaps, reading the paragraph, any one might, but I think not reading the whole report; because it distinctly states whom the paragraphs came from, and how they were sent.

5723. This is a communication from the relieving officer of the Biggleswade Union; did not you report what he said, as believing it to be true, coming from a person who was constantly travelling through the various districts, in order to relieve the poor?—This is the information sent me by Mr. Snitch, the relieving officer, he stating that he has obtained it from other people.

5724. Do you believe that Mr. Snitch communicated what was true or what was false?—I have no doubt that he received that communication, none whatever.

5725. Do you believe it to be true or false?—If the question is, whether that gentleman's opinion is true, I must refer to the returns; I cannot tell any thing about it.

5726. Was it not your duty to be acquainted with the facts of the case before you communicated the facts to the Commissioners, that they might go forth to the public?—I communicated it as it was communicated to me.

5727. *Chairman.*] Did you communicate that as stating facts within your knowledge?—Certainly not.

5728. Did you not mention it as having been given to you, and mention the name of your informant?—Yes.

5729. Mr. *Baines.*] Was it not against your view of the subject, inasmuch as it is representing the effect of the new law rather to its disadvantage than advantage?—I beg to state that I have given in that report the replies to every question, whether they were for or against the new law; and that amongst the rest appears in this report, and that happens to be against it.

5730. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you not confirmed all this by your own report, which precedes it?—I have drawn my opinion from the general information I have received.

5731. But giving this as a confirmation of your own report, do you not believe it to be true?—Yes, I did, to a certain extent.

5732. Do you not now believe it to be true?—Yes, in this gentleman's immediate district, I dare say, it was correct; I dare say that was his opinion.

5733. Will you read No. 12?—"I think there is a greater disposition on the part of the able-bodied labourers to seek and retain employment than before the new Poor Law came into operation; but I do not see much alteration in their general manners and habits. The alehouses are, I think, more frequented than ever, which may be accounted for, in some measure, by the facility given to the lower classes of persons in towns to obtain licenses to sell beer, and partly by the neglect of the parish officers, and the respectable inhabitants generally, in not enforcing the law against beer-shop keepers, for selling at unseasonable times; the rate of wages has not been altered in this parish for a length of time; but considering the low price of wheat the last year (the price of which article has always been a guide), I may say they are much higher than formerly; I do think that the industrious labourers, generally, feel more satisfied with their condition in consequence of the system adopted towards the idle; but I am not of opinion that poaching and petty depredations have at all diminished, but that the greater crime of sheep-stealing has increased in a tenfold degree."

5734. Do you believe that to be true?—No, I do not, that with regard to sheep-stealing.

5735. Then why did you make such a return to the Poor Law Commissioners?—I sent this return because it was sent to me, and thinking it my duty to give both the good and the bad.

5736. Is not this in confirmation of your own report?—Not at all; it was no report of mine; I forwarded to the Commissioners the exact communications that I had received; I furnished them with those documents.

5737. Will you now read paragraph 13?—"My opinion as to the effects of the new Poor Law system upon the able-bodied labourers is as follows: they are more ready and willing to serve their masters, and more careful of displeasing them; and, if any are out of employ, are more eager to obtain work; they do not frequent the alehouses so much as under the old system, because they cannot demand money of the overseer; I think they drink as much beer at their work as they used to do; I do not see any disposition to lay by a part of their earnings,

earnings, nor do I think they can lay by any (speaking generally), for the price of labour is the same as last year, 9*s*. per week; I do not know that the industrious labourer is altered any, but I am certain that the working of the new Poor Law will make more of this class; at present, I think, poaching and other depredations have been quite as numerous, and sheep-stealing is spreading more every year, and will be so until the idle labourers, who used to be paid for doing nothing, are worked off by being transported for crime, or reclaimed by the new system."

5738. *Chairman.*] What is that extract from?—An extract from the relieving officer's report to me of the opinions of the different individuals that he had consulted upon the questions.

5739. Not relating to the Ampthill Union?—No, this refers to the Biggleswade Union, for, by some accident or other, the report relative to the Ampthill Union, which went up, got lost, and it never appeared; I corrected it, but it got slipt out, and it never appeared.

5740. Mr. *Walker.*] Are you not of opinion that, in the course of the transition from the operation of the old law to the new, there might be a great amount of crime by certain individuals, rather than submit to the privations of the workhouse system?—I was certainly apprehensive that that might be the result, and I am much surprised to find that it has not been much more extensive than it has been throughout my district.

5741. *Chairman.*] And does it appear from the returns that there has been a diminution of crime in the county?—Yes, in the last quarter sessions it was mentioned that the amount of crime had decreased.

5742. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have stated, in answer to a former question, that the labourers are generally in full employment in the Union of Ampthill?—Yes, at that time they were.

5743. Are they in full employment now?—As I have not lately been to Ampthill, except for one day, it is perfectly impossible for me to say; but there are gentlemen in the room who can speak to that point.

5744. Have you heard of any late period when there was a considerable assemblage of labourers at Ampthill on a certain day?—I wish to state, that since Mr. Fielden's agents have been there, I have purposely abstained from going there myself, except for the purpose of attending the Bedford Union at the audit.

5745. Do you know that there was a meeting?—I have heard so; I know nothing of my own knowledge.

5746. Do you know the number that were reported to have attended that meeting?—I know nothing about it.

5747. You do not know whether those who attended that meeting were out of employment or not?—No, I do not; I was in Buckinghamshire at the time I heard that there was a meeting.

5748. Has the opinion been pretty general in the Union of Ampthill that the labourers had full employment?—I believe that is the general feeling.

5749. Do the labourers come out and show themselves, for the purpose of making known to the inhabitants that they have not full employment?—I cannot possibly answer that question, whether they come out to show themselves; because, as I have been through only one or two parishes, I cannot say what is done in the other parishes; I am not aware that they come out to show themselves in any such way; I should suppose the place where they would come and show themselves would be at the board of guardians, as a matter of course.

5750. How many parishes are there in Ampthill Union?—Nineteen.

5751. Do you know any one of those parishes in which the labourers have full employment?—If you ask me as to employment in any locality, I can only answer as to information given me; I can only judge as to what I see at the board of guardians, and the few applications that are made there; and I judge entirely from that, that most of the labourers are, in fact, in employment; very few apply to the board for relief, and therefore I draw that inference.

5752. You are quite certain that they do not make application to the relieving officer for relief?—I cannot speak to that.

5753. How do you know that they do not make application to the board of guardians for relief? I apprehend that every application to the board will appear upon the board of guardians' books, and I can see what the numbers are.

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5754. Is not every application made to the relieving officer reported to the board of guardians?—It should be, and, I apprehend, is.

5755. Then if there are many applications to the relieving officer, can the board of guardians be ignorant, the applications being made?—Certainly not, if they are reported by the relieving officer.

5756. Do you believe that many applications have been made, owing to the applicants being out of employment?—I dare say that there have been during this winter a certain number, owing to their being out of employment.

5757. Have they always been denied relief, unless they would go into the workhouse?—I am not aware, as there has not been a stringent order, what has been the mode of proceeding of the board since the winter commenced, because I have been in a different district altogether, and have not had an opportunity of seeing the books since that period.

5758. Are the board of guardians in Ampthill acting under the order refusing out-door relief to able-bodied?—Certainly not; there is no such peremptory rule in operation in any part of my district.

5759. Is it discretionary with the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union to grant relief out of the workhouse, if they think proper to do so?—Most undoubtedly, and throughout my district.

5760. Have the board of guardians refused to grant out-door relief to able-bodied labourers who have been out of work during the winter?—I believe they have; I have no doubt of it.

5761. Do they, on all occasions, offer relief in the workhouse?—I should apprehend so; when I have been there, and seen their mode of business, that was their general mode of doing it.

5762. Mr. *Scrope.*] Is the Committee to understand that you believe that that discretionary power, that the guardians have of affording relief out of the workhouse, to able-bodied paupers, has never been exercised in any single instance?—I cannot say whether it has or not, but my impression is, that it has been done in very few instances indeed; that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred they would order relief in the workhouse; there might be an exceptional case, because they have power so to do, and it is impossible, without referring to the books, for me to say whether they did or did not; the habit in the union is to refuse relief to the able-bodied, except in the workhouse.

5763. Mr. *Fielden.*] What are the numbers of able-bodied in the Ampthill workhouse at present?—I believe there are hardly any; the last time I passed through Ampthill, which was a fortnight ago, there were, I think, none, or only two or three.

5764. Do you ever converse with the labourers, in order to ascertain what their objections, if they have any, are, to go into the workhouse?—Not latterly; I have had very little communication with the labourers in the Ampthill Union; I do not know that I have conversed with one; I have in the other unions.

5765. In the Ampthill Union, have you heard of no complaint, on the part of the labourers, to go into the workhouse?—Certainly not; I have heard no complaints about it.

5766. What is the dietary that is used in the workhouse of Ampthill?—This is the dietary.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix.

5767. *Chairman.*] Is that one of the dietaries of the Commissioners?—It appears to be so.

5768. Are there no modifications?—No, I do not see that there are.

5769. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you heard any complaints by the able-bodied labourers of the dietary given in the Ampthill workhouse being insufficient for their maintenance?—No, I have not; I was there, I think, just before Christmas, and there were then some able-bodied labourers in the workhouse, and they knew me, and they made no complaints to me, and I did not seek for them.

5770. Do you think the dietary there described is sufficient for a labouring man to be supported on?—As a magistrate I have been in the habit of visiting the gaol of St. Alban's, and I have there seen able-bodied labourers live upon 1½ lbs. of bread a day, with water, and I have found them, at the end of two years, in perfect good health?—I have no doubt that that dietary is sufficient.

5771. What will be the cost of an able-bodied labourer, living upon this dietary,

per

per week?—That is a minute calculation, which I could not give; there can be no exact calculation without you take the exact dietary.

5772. Then have you thought it to be necessary to make inquiry as to what the amount of food should be to be furnished to an able-bodied labourer?—In looking at those dietaries generally, I find the whole quantity of food amounting to so many ounces, and that it is higher than is allowed in the gaol at St. Alban's, where I had always seen the inmates in perfect good health.

5773. Mr. *Barneby*.] Is not that return the average amount of what they cost?—Yes; but the average of all classes, if you enter into a minute calculation as to what the maintenance of an able-bodied man costs, it is an endless task.

5774. Mr. *Fielden*.] What is the description of persons in the Ampthill workhouse at present, there being no able-bodied?—They are almost all the aged and infirm, and a few children.

5775. Is out-door relief denied to the aged out of the workhouse in that union?—Certainly not; nothing of the sort, nor in any one of my unions; no such thing ever entered into my imagination.

5776. Do the aged and infirm prefer living in the workhouse to living at home?—I have never asked them their opinion, but I should say the bulk of them have no home at all, and no friends.

5777. Are there many widows in that workhouse without children?—The books will show exactly whether the workhouse has a widow or not; I have seen old women in the workhouse, and talked to them, but whether they were widows or maids I cannot say.

5778. Has it come within your knowledge that widows of considerable age have been denied out-door relief?—I should not think that that had occurred, unless they were fully satisfied that they had means of living without aid from the union; I do not think that that would have occurred, from what I have seen at the board.

5779. Has it come to your knowledge that either widowers or widows having children have been denied relief out of the workhouse in the Ampthill Union?—I cannot answer for widowers; I dare say they have been refused out-door relief; but I know that it is the practice of the board to give a great amount of relief to widows with children.

5780. Have you in your travels in that union visited the cottages of the poor, in order to see in what state they are as to their furniture and bedding?—I visited a great many of the cottages before I formed the unions; and I am quite aware that they are in a most wretched and deplorable state; they were then, and I have no doubt that they are now.

5781. Have any of them been obliged to sell their furniture in order that they might subsist since the union was formed?—I am not aware of such cases, but I understand that the pawnbrokers' shops have a good many articles in them.

5782. But if you had been in the habit of frequenting those houses, would not you be told by the inhabitants of those houses what their state was, and be able to see with your eyes what the condition was?—If you mean to ask me whether I have asked poor people whether they were in a state of distress, I never have, because I never seek out for distress, but I want distress to seek me out, and therefore I have not sought out them.

5783. Did I not understand you rightly, that you did, before the formation of the union, visit the cottages of the poor, and have done so since?—Yes, I have occasionally been into the cottage of a poor man, but the poor men I have visited have generally been poor of the better class, and not of the inferior class; they have been generally labourers that I have wanted to ask about labour; I am satisfied that there is a great deal of distress; I have seen too much of it.

5784. Does that distress naturally lead to the increase of crime in that union?—It does not appear to have done so, as far as I can judge.

5785. Has there been any increase of sheep-stealing in the Ampthill Union?—I must answer that question as I did before, that I cannot tell whether there has been an increase of sheep-stealing or not; I ought to know that better in a magisterial capacity than as Assistant-commissioner, and I do not know it in either.

5786. Do you believe what you have heard on that subject?—No.

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5787. *Chairman.*] Have you heard that there is an increase of sheep-stealing in the Ampthill Union?—No; but those gentlemen who reside in the union will tell you better about that; I am there only two or three times a quarter, and I cannot, therefore, speak to all those questions.

5788. Mr. *Baines.*] You visited the cottages of the poor before the establishment of these unions, just on the eve of their establishment?—Yes, just to see the state in which they were.

5789. Did not you find, on visiting the cottages, that many were in a deplorable condition at that time?—In Bedfordshire there are many cottages that have not a floor, and many that have not more than a pot to boil their food in, and they would stick the key under the hatch, and there was nothing to break in for; and many are in that state now, and there is the greatest possible distress.

5790. Do you then think that there is any difference between the state of the cottages now and the state of cottages of that kind before the alteration of the law?—No, I am not prepared to say that there is, because they are generally the very lowest class of poor, the idlest and most dissolute of all, and I am not prepared to say that, in two or three years, they are so improved as to make their cottages better; their wives are slatterns, and there is every thing wretched about them.

5791. Mr. *Fielden.*] And this misery exists, you believe, notwithstanding there is an increase of wages?—Yes; it does not follow that it is an increase to the wages of those individuals; I have never said that.

5792. But you have said that there is full employment for the labourers in that union?—Yes; it does not follow that this class of labourers are receiving 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week; you must deal with every individual case.

5793. You have spoken of Shitlington parish being seven miles distant from the board; are there many applicants that have to come to the board, in order to obtain relief, who live in Shitlington parish?—If we have the relief books you can tell the exact number, but I cannot state; I should have thought that Shitlington parish, except by the carriage road, was not seven miles from Ampthill.

5794. You have before stated that, since the unions were formed, the relief given to the poor has been equalized, that is, to the aged and infirm?—I stated that the only alteration that I was aware of was to equalize, as much as possible, the different quantum of relief given to the aged and infirm.

5795. What did you mean by equalizing; were those that were receiving the highest pay reduced to those that were receiving the lowest pay, or what was the equalization to which you referred?—They were equalized in a great measure as to their pecuniary circumstances; I do not think it was asked whether they received high or low, but they would equalize them as to their particular wants; you would find that particular parishes had particular favourites, and you would find that one person was receiving 3*s.* 6*d.* a week, while another person, with the same wants and in the same circumstances, might be reduced to 2*s.* 6*d.*; and the payment to both of those might be reduced to 2*s.* 6*d.*, if you were satisfied that that was enough; and you would find in another parish, that an industrious woman received in the reverse way, and she was increased, perhaps, to 2*s.* 6*d.*; that is the only alteration which has taken place.

5796. Do you apprehend that the amount of relief given to the aged and infirm and the children has been augmented since the union was formed?—I believe that it remains nearly in the same state that it was; I am not prepared to state precisely, because it is a matter of minute calculation; but I am not aware, from looking over the books, that there is any such alteration as to justify me in saying that there has been a material alteration.

5797. Mr. *Barneby.*] Will you state to the Committee what arrangements are made in the Ampthill Union for the funerals of paupers who may die in the workhouse; in the first instance, will you state whether they are buried in the parish in which the workhouse is situated, or in the parishes to which they respectively belong?—They are buried in the parishes to which they respectively belong; there is a hearse to take them to those parishes; that is what I have recommended in all my unions, and that is the practice followed.

5798. Have you heard any objection made by the clergymen of those parishes?—No, I never have.

5799. *Chairman.*] Have you ever heard, that when the body has been taken to the parish, there has been a difficulty in respect to the fee to the clergyman?—I believe

I believe there has, and I recollect an instance where there was some dispute about the fees, and some dispute where the paupers were to be buried; I believe they are taken to the parishes, and hearses provided at the expense of the parish. *D. G. Adey, Esq.* 23 March 1838.

5800. Mr. *Barneby.*] Has any permission been given to the parents of the children who may die in the workhouse that they may attend the funerals; or, on the other hand, has permission been given to the children that they may attend the funerals of their parents who may die in the workhouse?—I have not the least idea that permission would be refused; I cannot say that it has been given, but I have seen the hearse going from the workhouse, and persons attending it.

5801. Relatives of the deceased?—Very likely; I cannot say.

5802. Are the arrangements in the Ampthill Union similar to those in the other unions?—I suppose so; I have not heard to the contrary.

5803. In the case of a child dying in the workhouse, in what mode is the funeral conducted?—I cannot give the details; it is left to the chaplain; I have directed them to be conducted with proper decency; in the Ampthill Union I met the funeral of a person in a cart, which is not certainly conducting it with the same decency that we should conduct it.

Mr. *James Turner*, called in; and Examined.

5804. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your profession or business in life?—I used to be a dresser of cotton-yarn in a factory. Mr. *James Turner.*

5805. Have you lately been in the Ampthill Union?—Yes.

5806. Have you been there for the purpose of making inquiries into the condition of the poor there?—I have.

5807. In what state did you find them?—I have found them not in a good state; I found a good deal of distress existing amongst the cottages of the poor people.

5808. Among what class of people particularly?—Almost all of them; those more especially who had not constant work.

5809. With regard to old people, in what state did you find them?—I found some of them worse than they used to be, and some of them better than they used to be.

5810. When you say worse than they used to be, had you been in the Ampthill Union before?—No; when I say worse than they used to be, I mean that the relief given to the aged and infirm, in some instances, is not so much as it used to be, and in some instances more than it used to be.

5811. But among the poor, amongst those cases of old people that you inquired into, should you say that the allowances are generally increased or diminished, as far as you inquired?—As far as our inquiry went, I should think that there is in general a diminution, that they have rather decreased the allowance to the aged; but some of them have increased and some of them remain as they were.

5812. Among the able-bodied, what state of things did you find amongst them?—That class of labourers, as I before stated, who are in constant work, that is, work regularly for their masters, we did not find them so much worse than they used to be; that class that are the worst off are those that have not constant work.

5813. Take the case of those who have constant work, what did they describe to you their condition to be?—Their wages are generally 9*s.* a week, with one exception, where they had been having 12*s.* with one master.

5814. Are you speaking of the parish of Ampthill, or of the parishes about Ampthill contained within the union?—I am now alluding to Ampthill parish.

5815. And there you find that the general rate of wages is 9*s.* a week?—Yes, with the exception of the labourers who worked for one gentleman, and he has been giving 12*s.*; but he is now dead, and there will be an alteration, I dare say.

5816. Up to the time of his death he gave 12*s.*—He did.

5817. Has he died recently?—A few months ago.

5818. He was the only person who gave that amount of wages?—Yes.

5819. There was the difference of 3*s.* between the wages which he gave, and the general wages of the labourers?—Yes.

5820. Did he employ many labourers?—Yes.

5821. Did the other employers give any allowance, or any liquor, that made

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up for the difference between 9 *s.* and 12 *s.* a week?—No, not any; it was considered a fortunate circumstance for those people who worked for this gentleman.

5822. Had they any advantage besides that 9 *s.* a week?—Not any, with one or two exceptions; some farmers will give them some milk in the morning, but that is not very common, and nothing else but their 9 *s.*; I am speaking of those that work by the day.

5823. Did you find many working by task-work?—A good many.

5824. Did they say that there were more or fewer employed in task-work than formerly?—There is a greater inclination among the farmers to employ men at task-work.

5825. More are employed in task-work than formerly?—Yes.

5826. What did you find them earning at task-work?—Generally about the same wages that were earned by the day, or in some instances it would be an increase of 1 *s.* a week, but not very common.

5827. At task-work, then, they earn 9 *s.* a week?—It is so contrived, when the farmer gives the work to his men, he contrives so that he shall earn a shilling a week more, but they do a shilling more work for it.

5828. Do they, or do they not, earn generally more at task-work than they do by day wages?—They may, in many instances, earn a shilling more, but not beyond a shilling.

5829. Generally, do they earn a shilling more?—Not always; but sometimes they do.

5830. What sort of task-work are they employed at?—Threshing, ditching, draining, hedging; that is generally done by piece.

5831. Are the children very much employed?—No; not to such an extent as I should have imagined.

5832. Did you ask the farmers, or the labourers whom you saw, whether there was more employment for the children since the law was introduced, or not?—I did.

5833. What was their answer?—They could not state that there was any difference.

5834. You do not think the number of children employed was increased?—As far as Ampthill was concerned I think not; there is plaiting done, and they put boys to the plaiting as well as girls.

5835. Did you hear, in your communication with the people there, whether there was or was not any difference in the amount of employment given to children since the law was changed?—I could not find that there was any difference.

5836. Were there a great many people out of employment?—A great many.

5837. In Ampthill, or the parishes around it?—In both.

5838. What number of people did you find out of employment?—In the winter, during the very severe weather, there were from 30 to 40, in the parish of Ampthill alone, totally unemployed; on the 18th of February there were 50.

5839. What became of those people?—They were about in the streets, standing in corners, and I saw some sitting at home.

5840. How long were they out of employment?—I am speaking now, when I say that number, of the severe weather,—from three to six weeks.

5841. How did they live during that period?—That is a question that they could not themselves answer; I often asked that.

5842. What explanation did they give you?—When I have asked them generally how they were situated, what they had coming in, and what they had to pay out, I used to ask them often how did they live; the answer is, "We cannot tell, but chiefly on bread and potatoes."

5843. How did they, being out of employment, describe to you that they obtained the bread and potatoes?—In most instances some parts of the family are making a trifle with plaiting; those families that plait are rather better off than those families that make lace.

5844. Among those 30 or 40 able-bodied labourers whom you have described to be out of employment at Ampthill, were there some whose children were not employed in plaiting?—Yes, and some of them would be young men that had no families.

5845. Take the case first of a young man without a family, he being out of employment, how did he describe to you that he lived?—He would not hesitate for a moment to say that he went stealing, and was driven to it; they would frequently

frequently tell us, under the circumstances that they described, "We are driven to do that which we should not have done if we had work."

5840. Did you form an opinion, during your residence at Ampthill, that the amount of crime had increased lately?—I do think so, of petty crime.

5847. Upon what ground do you form that opinion?—From the manners and habits of the people, from what I heard of them, and from my own general observations; I did not see them myself go to do those things.

5848. Then I am to understand that your impression is that the young men were driven by distress to habits of stealing, in order to support themselves?—I do think so.

5849. Now take the men of a more advanced age, and with families dependent upon them; what did they do to maintain themselves during the time you describe them to have been out of work?—If the children were plaiting, and the children were making 3*s.* or 4*s.* a week with plaiting, they contrived to eke out an existence with that, and those men with families have, in the back end of the year, generally contrived to get a few potatoes together, and a great many I found living upon those potatoes, having nothing but potatoes and salt.

5850. Did you collect that the amount of employment in the neighbourhood was greater than it had been in former years?—Very little, not much; but they did seem, as far as I could get information, to think that there was rather more work than there used to be; but a great many have been driven off to various parts, such as the railroad; a great many have gone from that part to the railroad.

5851. They have found employment on the railroad?—Yes.

5852. At pretty good wages?—Some of them at 15*s.* a week, 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; but if a man's family was in that part, and he went to work on the railroad himself, he hardly gets so much money to bring home as if he had 9*s.* a week on the spot.

5853. But you describe 30 or 40 in the parish of Ampthill, that were entirely out of employment for a period of from three to six weeks; did those people apply for relief to the board of guardians?—Not to a very great extent.

5854. Why did they not?—Because it was of no use whatever to apply.

5855. Why was it not?—The impression on their minds was, "We have no parish now, it is of no use to apply for relief now, though we are out of work;" so that, though they were suffering the distress which I have now named, they did not choose to go to the board at all, because they did not like to go to the workhouse, and it was a well understood thing that it was either the workhouse, or no relief at all.

5856. Was their distress very great?—In some instances it was very great, worse than I ever saw in my life.

5857. Were you in the workhouse?—I was.

5858. Did you observe whether the people appeared to be healthy or unhealthy in the workhouse, or whether there was a sufficiency of food?—Not a sufficiency of food; the children of nine or ten years of age certainly looked the best, because the children of nine years of age had the same allowance as the grown-up persons.

5859. Did the grown-up people, men or women, whom you saw in the workhouse appear to be healthy?—I was in two or three times, but the first time I was there there were not many able-bodied.

5860. But there were a good many grown-up persons?—Not so many when I went to see the paupers myself.

5861. Supposing them to have been few or many, what was the appearance of their health?—Their appearance was not good.

5862. Did you hear complaints of the insufficiency of the food?—Not while they were in, but always when they came out; every individual that I saw, when they came out, when I asked them about their food, always said that the solid food was good; they did not find fault with the quality of it, but the quantity; but every individual that I saw said that the worst day was Friday, when they had only 14 ounces of pudding for dinner.

5863. On Friday I find that they have for breakfast five ounces of bread and a pint and a half of gruel, and for their dinner 14 ounces of pudding; and they have for supper five ounces of bread and an ounce of cheese?—Yes.

5864. Did those people describe the food generally, taking one day with another, to be less good than they had been accustomed to in their own houses?—No,

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—No, but they described it to be insufficient; and that though it was insufficient at home, no family ever went into that house till they were driven to the very last shift, so that they were better fed in the workhouse than when they were out; but still they stated that they had not sufficiency of food.

5865. What sort of pudding was it?—Plain suet pudding.

5866. That is nourishing diet, is it not?—Yes, if they have plenty of it, it is.

5867. You found those people preferring to remain out of employment, in a state of extreme distress, with an insufficiency of food, rather than go into the workhouse?—I did; many would suffer death; those were their expressions; "I will never go there if I can have one meal a day; if I can have a bit of bread, a bit of potato, I will never go there;" there is a strong feeling against going there.

5868. Did you hear any complaint of the manner in which they were treated in the workhouse, as to kindness, or otherwise?—I did not.

5869. Did you hear those statements of a determination not to go into the workhouse, and being willing to suffer death or any extremity rather than go there, made by persons who had not been in the workhouse, or by persons who had been there?—By both.

5870. You found, from the general answer of the people, an impression that their condition was altered for the worse by the introduction of the law?—That was their impression.

5871. Before the introduction of the law, they were in the habit of receiving an allowance from the parish?—Yes; whether they worked or not, they used to assemble on the roads in large numbers.

5872. They used to apply to the parish officers, and if they did not succeed in their application to them, they went to the magistrates and were ordered a certain allowance from the parish rates?—As far as I could get to understand it, every man that there was no work for was put on the roads, or in the gravel-pits to get gravel, with a certain allowance according to his family.

5873. What was that allowance when they were entirely supported by the parish?—Young men about 2*s.* 6*d.* a week; a man and his wife, without a family, 5*s.*, and in proportion, according to his children, upwards.

5874. That is a very low rate of wages, is it not; do you find many young men subsisting upon 2*s.* 6*d.* a week?—I found them without any thing.

5875. Many unemployed?—I did; I found a good many during the very severe weather.

5876. Have you a list of the names of persons whom you found out of employment?—I have; I have it not with me now; I did not expect that I should be called on to-day.

5877. Can you produce that list?—I can; on Tuesday I will produce it, both of labourers in the parish of Ampthill and other parishes of the union.

5878. Were there a great many people employed by the parish in the manner you have described in the gravel pits or upon the road?—In some parishes there were a great many.

5879. Was that a comfortable state of subsistence?—Certainly not; it was a state of things that the work-people would never desire to go back to.

5880. What would they desire?—Work.

5881. Work has increased, you say?—It has some little, not much.

5882. Did you ever hear from those persons what numbers were out of employment?—They used to tell me, those who were the advocates for the new law, if we had been here before the passing of the new law we should have found a great many more out of work than you will find now; in some parishes there would have been as many as 40 upon the roads.

5883. In those parishes what is the present state of things?—I now allude to the parish of Westoning.

5884. Is that in the union?—It is.

5885. Will you describe that?—In the parish of Westoning 40 men were in what is called the gravel-pits before the new law was passed; we found there 34 out of work in the severe weather. On the 17th of February there were 40.

5886. Had they been long out of work?—From three to six weeks; I am only speaking from memory now.

5887. Did they say that they had applied for work and were unable to obtain it?—They did, and that they were willing to work, but a great many had gone to the railroad; but all that work is finished now.

5888. Thirty-four remained unemployed?—Thirty-four were unemployed on the day that I speak of.

5889. Did they say that there was more employment in that parish now than there had been formerly?—I could not perceive that there was.

5890. How near was the railroad to which they went?—Eleven or twelve miles.

5891. Why did they leave the work upon the railroad?—It is being carried on a great many miles below.

5892. And they did not go farther in quest of work?—There is no employment to be had.

5893. Were those single men, or were they men with families?—Both.

5894. But in what proportion; were the greater part single men, or men with families?—I should think equal numbers, but I shall be able to tell which are married and which are single.

5895. They did not wish to revert to the old law; they objected to the state of things under the old law?—They do not wish to go back to that.

5896. What was the objection they had to the old law?—The more thinking part of them objected to the system of being together, being paid for doing nothing; they imagined that it produced bad habits among the working people, by being congregated together in a gravel-pit; what the working people want is, that each of the farmers should find them constant work, according to the number of acres of land; that is the strongest feeling among the working people, as far as I could ascertain; but when farmers have large portions of land, and are employing very few work people, it does not produce a good feeling among them.

5897. Are you any judge of farming yourself?—No, I am not.

5898. What did you collect to be the impression among the agricultural persons in that country; was the farming there bad or good?—Some of it is good and some is not.

5899. Generally speaking, is there much uncultivated land?—I am not a farmer.

5900. But you saw and conversed with some farmers?—Yes, we saw a good many, and had conversation with them.

5901. What was the impression which you derived; did you infer that the state of cultivation of the ground was bad or good?—Still the cultivation might be much amended.

5902. Did it appear to be the general impression that a greater number of labourers might be employed with profit to the farmers?—Yes; I found many farmers who were employing four or five labourers to 100 acres of land; and, taking the number of acres in the parish, if every one had done that there would have been full employment for every one.

5903. But the quantity of employment that can be used profitably upon a certain quantity of land depends upon the quality of the land, does it not?—I should suppose it does, but I am not a farmer; but some farmers I found employing a great many more labourers than others.

5904. Mr. *Hodges*.] Did you hear, from conversation with those farmers who employed this extra number of men, that they were employing them in a manner that would remunerate them for that employment?—Most certainly; their opinion was that it paid them for employing the labourers.

5905. It was not upon any fancy work, but upon the regular cultivation of the farm, that those labourers were employed?—Yes.

5906. Mr. *Liddell*.] It was not forced labour?—Not at all.

5907. And your opinion is, that if every farmer had employed an equal number of labourers, in proportion to the extent of land that he possessed, there would be full employment for them all?—Yes.

5908. Mr. *Scrope*.] Is it your opinion that if all the labourers were secure of employment, under an Act compelling the farmers to employ so many upon their farms, they would be so industrious as they are?—I would never let the labourers be in a condition that the master could not turn them off.

5909. Then you would not agree to the farmer being obliged to employ a certain number of men, according to the quantity of land that he held?—The labourers did not wish that he should be compelled to employ such and such individuals; but their opinion is, that every farmer should have labourers according to the quantity of land that he has; that is the opinion of the labourers in that part of the country.

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5910. That is to say, that all the labourers should be apportioned to the farmers of the parish?—That is not their wish, for they wish to work for it.

5911. Did you ever hear of any plan by which a farmer, so employing labourers, should be secure of getting a good day's work from them?—No, I never did hear that.

5912. Mr. *Hodges.*] Did you find that the reluctance, on the part of other farmers to employ the men, arose from their supposing that extra labour employed upon the land did not yield a profit, or that it arose from the farmers being poor, and not able to pay the labourers?—I think it did not arise from their being poor, but from their thinking that it would not be profitable for them.

5913. Mr. *Liddell.*] Any employment of labourers, beyond profitable employment, would be forced labour?—Yes; but the opinion was, that it could be made profitable.

5914. Mr. *Baines.*] You said that the farmers who employed labourers upon their land generally employed them profitably?—That is the impression that I have.

5915. If that be so, do not you think that farmers for the most part would be disposed to employ labourers, if they could employ them for profit?—If they could be led to believe it themselves.

5916. Do you think, if it be so, that the farmers must not themselves be the best judges of that?—They are not always so.

5917. Do you think that?—They are not.

5918. *Chairman.*] Whom do you think the better judge than the farmer, as to whether he can employ labourers profitably upon his farm?—He may reasonably think this; that by not employing the men, he may save the wages; on the other hand, that if he did employ them, it would be an advantage if those labourers were employed.

5919. Then he comes to the conclusion that labour cannot be employed profitably?—He does.

5920. If he thinks that the profit resulting from the labourers' work will not enable him to pay the wages, with the usual profits of capital, he may suppose that the labour cannot be employed profitably?—Yes; but he may hold wrong opinions.

5921. Whom do you think is a proper judge of that?—I am not a farmer.

APPENDIX.

AMPTHILL UNION.

To the GUARDIANS of the POOR of the AMPTHILL UNION, in the county of *Bedford*; to the Clerk or Clerks to the Justices of Petty Sessions, held for the division or divisions of the said County in which the parishes and places comprised in the said Union are situate; and to all others whom it may concern.

WE, the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, in pursuance of the provisions of an Act passed in the fourth and fifth years of the reign of his present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," do hereby order and direct that the paupers of the respective classes and sexes described in the schedule hereunto annexed, who may now or hereafter be received and maintained in the workhouse or workhouses of the Ampthill Union, shall, during the period of their residence therein, be fed, dieted and maintained with the food and in the manner described and set forth in the said schedule, any thing in any former order to the contrary notwithstanding.

And we do hereby further order and direct, that every master of the workhouse or workhouses of the said union shall cause two or more copies of this our order and of the said schedule, printed in a legible manner and in a large type, to be hung up in the most public places of such workhouse or workhouses, and to renew the same from time to time, so that it be always kept fair and legible, on pain of incurring, in case of disobedience, the penalties provided by the aforesaid Act.

Given under our hands and seal, this 22d day of January, in the year 1836.

L. S.

T. Frankland Lewis.
J. G. S. Lefevre.
Geo. Nicholls.

DIETARY FOR ABLE-BODIED MEN AND WOMEN.

	Breakfast.		Dinner.					Supper.		
	Bread.	Gruel.	Bread.	Meat.	Potatoes.	Soup.	Pudding.	Bread.	Cheese.	Broth.
	oz.	*pints.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*lb.*	*pints.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*pints.*
Sunday - -	4	1½	4	4	1	–	–	4	–	1½
Monday - -	4	1½	4	–	–	1½*	–	6	1	–
Tuesday - -	4	1½	4	4	1	–	–	4	–	1½
Wednesday -	4	1½	4	–	–	1½	–	6	1	–
Thursday - -	4	1½	4	4	1	–	–	4	–	1½
Friday - -	4	1½	–	–	–	–	14	6	1	–
Saturday - -	4	1½	4	–	–	1½	–	6	1	–

* Recipe for the Soup:—14 gallons of water, 2 quarts of peas, ½ bushel of potatoes, 5 lbs. of flour, 18 lbs. of beef.

PER WEEK.

Bread - - -	5 lb. 8 oz.	Cheese - - -	4 oz.
Meat - - -	– „ 12 „	Gruel - - -	10½ pints.
Soup - - -	2 pots 1 pint	Broth - - -	4½ pints.

Old people of 60 years of age and upwards may be allowed 1 oz. of tea, 7 oz. of butter, and 8 oz. of sugar per week, in lieu of gruel for breakfast, if deemed expedient to make this change.

Children, under nine years of age, to be dieted at discretion; above nine, to be allowed the same quantities as the able-bodied.

Sick to be dieted as directed by the medical officer.

NINETEENTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*,
23 *March* 1838.

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TWENTIETH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE,

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
27 *March* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, That power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

27 *March* 1838.

WITNESS.

Mr. *James Turner.*

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Martis, 27° die Martii, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Hodges.
Mr. Barneby.	Lord Howick.
Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt.	Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Scrope.
Sir T. Fremantle.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *James Turner*, again called in; and further Examined.

5922. *Chairman.*] I HAVE in my hand a letter, which purports to be dated, "King's Arms, Ampthill, Bedfordshire, December 26th, 1837," and signed "James Turner"?—I wrote it.

5923. In that letter you state that you have met with only one family, and that family afflicted with the small pox, receiving relief out of the workhouse?—At that time it was correct; I had been there only 10 days.

5924. Do you mean that it was your impression at the time, or that subsequent inquiry led you to believe that that was a correct impression?—Not quite; I found afterwards some few cases, but very few, of able-bodied receiving any relief; when I said this, I did not mean to apply it to the aged or infirm, but to the able-bodied.

5925. And your impression at that time being that which you have expressed in this letter, that you had only met with one case, and that a family afflicted with the small pox, who were receiving relief out of the workhouse, you found that, upon subsequent inquiry, not to be correct?—There were very few variations after that, but still we did meet with some.

5926. What description of cases did you meet with?—We met with a person of the name of Goodman, at a place called Millbrook; this, to which I was alluding, was a man that was sick, who was in a benefit club, and the board of guardians believed him to be a very worthy man, and they agreed to give him 3*s.* a week without going to the workhouse; we met with another of a similar nature at Westoning, of the name of Bunker, who had 3*s.* a week while he was sick, but there were not many cases that we met with; but when this was written there were none exept this which I have mentioned.

5927. Do you mean to say that there were none at that time, or that that was your impression at that time?—I state, that hitherto we have not met with any other.

5928. You say that if a man has a sickly wife he has no relief in the union at Ampthill?—I do say so.

5929. Do you still say so?—I do, that I found many with sickly wives that had no relief.

5930. Did you find any with sickly wives that had relief?—Yes; I think only one.

5931. On account of the sickness of his wife?—I do not remember at the present meeting with any, except one.

5932. On the 26th of December you used this expression: "If a man have a large family of small children, it is no matter; if he have a sick wife, if the children be in bad health, if the wife be confined, all this avails him nothing, he is driven upon his own rescources;" at that time your impression was, that if a

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27 March 1838.

man had a wife in sickness he could receive no relief out of the workhouse?—I am of the same opinion still.

5933. Do you, from your subsequent inquiries at Ampthill, retain the opinion that, under no circumstances, the able-bodied man whose wife is sick obtains relief?—I have never met with a case, but many cases can I bring forward of people with large families, and sickly wives and sickly children, having no relief.

5934. A little further on you say: "Two-thirds of the working people have no constant employment;" is it your impression that in the Ampthill Union two-thirds of the working people are not in employment?—I was then alluding to the parish of Ampthill, not having gone beyond the parish of Ampthill.

5935. Your observation at that time does not apply to the whole union?—Not so much as to the parish, but I am still of opinion that two-thirds of the labouring people in the parish of Ampthill have not constant work.

5936. You say they have now and then a day's work; do you believe that that expression of having a day's work now and then applies to two-thirds of the labouring population even of the parish of Ampthill?—I should think not.

5937. To what does it apply?—When they tell us "now and then a day's work," I consider it work for about half their time; that is what I meant.

5938. The common interpretation which would be put upon having now and then a day's work is, that they rarely have a day's work; and to what extent do you mean that two-thirds of the labouring people have no employment?—I am of opinion now that two-thirds of the labourers in the parish of Ampthill have not constant work; that is, they have work only occasionally.

5939. You confine that to the parish of Ampthill?—I am now confining myself, in this statement, to the parish of Ampthill.

5940. In what respect, confining yourself to the parish of Ampthill, has the new Poor Law altered the condition of the labourers of that parish?—Before the new Poor Law was passed, those people, when they had not work, had some relief.

5941. In the parish of Ampthill?—Yes, in the parish of Ampthill.

5942. Was not the practice to refuse out-door relief to the able-bodied?—That had been the practice for a little while before the new Poor Law was passed.

5943. If that had been the practice before the new Poor Law was passed, how do you attribute this want of employment to the Poor Law?—I am not aware that I did attribute it to the new Poor Law; I attribute their condition, having no food and no clothing, to the new Poor Law, which refuses any relief to that class of people.

5944. When you say that it refuses any relief to that class of people, you mean out-door relief?—I mean out-door relief.

5945. Do you know what the practice was in the parish of Ampthill before the new Poor Law was introduced?—I do not; I am not so conversant, that I could speak to it.

5946. If, then, you do not know what the practice was before the new Poor Law was introduced, how can you attribute the change to the new Poor Law?—At the time this was written, it was from the information that I gathered from the individuals themselves; now their statement is, they have no parish, whatever their condition; they have nobody to apply to now, however distressed they are; and at that time the working people attributed all this to the new Poor Law, for it is well known that there was a great inclination to adopt the provisions of the new Poor Law, before ever it became the law of the land. As soon as ever it was introduced, they began to come nearer to the provisions of the new law, even before it became law.

5947. You said that the people were not satisfied with the operation of the old law?—They did not like the system of being bandied about in the gravel-pits, and on the roads, assembled together; they do not approve of it, and they do not wish to revert to that practice.

5948. When you found the people in the parish of Ampthill complaining of the new Poor Law, and attributing a part of their distress to the introduction of the new Poor Law, did it occur to you to ask them what their condition was before the new Poor Law was introduced?—We often asked that.

5949. What did they tell you?—They always used to tell us, "If we were out of work before this new Poor Law was passed we had relief;" but I should believe

believe that what they meant by the new Poor Law being passed was, they could not tell the time exactly when it was passed, and that they alluded to the time when the change took place.

5950. They alluded to the change of practice voluntarily adopted by the authorities in Ampthill, whatever they were, before the new Poor Law was introduced, and not to any change in the law?—It was that change to which they were alluding, when they stated how their condition was worse than it was before.

5951. You say also, that you found numbers that had not had one day's work a week since the harvest, and a good many of them with large families; are you speaking still of the parish of Ampthill?—Yes.

5952. Did you find many persons belonging to the parish of Ampthill, and living in the parish of Ampthill, with large families, who had not had above one day's work in a week since the harvest?—We did.

5953. Can you give the names of some of those persons?—I have not looked out that list, not knowing that I should be asked such a question, but I will at a subsequent period give the names of several individuals of that description; I shall have to go through the books in order to do so, but I will furnish the Committee with them.

5954. You describe in your letter the general appearance of the cottages; you probably come from the north of England?—I do.

5955. In the south of England do you not find that the cottages of the poor, and the mode of living, are greatly inferior than those in the north?—I do.

5956. Mr. *Hodges.*] What do you mean by the south of England?—I mean in the agricultural districts; I mean Bedfordshire and that part of the country where I then was; we, in the north, always consider that the south.

5957. *Chairman.*] You use an expression that I do not understand, in describing the great misery of the cottages and their want of furniture; you say this: "My colleague, Mr. Crabtree, has often asked them to show him their beds, after they have answered the various questions which we have put to them, and we have often found that those beds have no blankets, nor are they made of feathers, excepting those of rather a long description, on which once grew that very necessary article corn;" will you explain in a less figurative manner what you mean by that?—Straw.

5958. Mattresses of straw?—They lay on straw, there was no mattress at all; it is very common.

5959. Do they use mattresses in that part of the country, made of chaff, after the threshing?—That is done in country places in the north.

5960. In Bedfordshire did you find that to be the case?—No, we never found that; we found mostly a bundle of straw put together to lie upon, the same as for a cow or a horse.

5961. You say "They get for breakfast sometimes bread, and they get the tea-leaves from a more fortunate neighbour, and run hot water through; I call it bread and water; some people may call it tea, but it is destitute of two very essentials, cream and sugar"?—That is correct.

5962. Do you find generally, in those parts of England with which you are acquainted, that the labouring population have cream in their tea?—No; but they generally have milk.

5963. The inference that one would draw from your expression is, that it is a matter of grievance with the poor in Bedfordshire that they have not cream in their tea?—I mean that the tea was better with the cream; I do not call it a good thing without those two things, cream and sugar.

5964. Do you mean generally that the labouring population of England, as far as you are acquainted with them, are in the habit of having cream in their tea?—No, but very often of having milk; but in Bedfordshire they do not have that.

5965. You complain of the dearness of fuel; "the dearness of the fuel," you say, "aggravates the distress of the poor?"—During this severe weather I have seen coals sold at 2*s.* 6*d.* a cwt., and the earnings of the poor people, even those that are in constant work, at 8*s.* or 9*s.* a week, cannot procure much fuel at that price.

5966. Is wood dear in Bedfordshire?—Yes.

5967. Is it not a wooded country?—Yes, there is a good deal of wood.

5968. Did you find wood dear there?—It is dear.

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5969. You say " Wood is also very dear, and if any poor man is found gathering a few sticks he is sure to dance on the treadmill for his reward ?"—That is true.

5970. That being true, can you give the name of any man who was sent to work upon the treadmill for gathering a few sticks ?—At the time I wrote that, there was a man being taken before the magistrates for stealing sticks, at the very time.

5971. What was the result ?—The result was, that he was convicted in the penalty of 12*s.*, and his friends paid it ; but, if it had not been for his friends, that individual must have gone, as many individuals have gone, to prison.

5972. You say : " And if any poor man is found gathering a few sticks, he is sure to dance on the treadmill for his reward ;" you having made this statement, and it having been published, and you having been some time at Ampthill, are you now in a condition to bring before this Committee any one instance of any one individual who has been sent to the treadmill for gathering a few sticks ? —Yes.

5973. Be so good as to give that ?—I will attend to that, but I cannot at the moment state the instance.

5974. What do you mean by gathering a few sticks ?—Trespassing ; it is under the Trespass Act.

5975. What do you mean by gathering a few sticks ?—I mean if they went to the wood to pull a few sticks.

5976. If they went to cut branches off trees ?—If they went to gather the wood in the plantations, they were in danger of being sent to the treadmill.

5977. Do you mean picking up sticks from the ground or pulling sticks ?—I meant pulling them out of the hedges ; I did not mean that if the stick was lying on the road and they took it up, they would be in danger of being sent to the treadmill.

5978. Mr. *Liddell.*] But if they gathered dead wood out of plantations, they would be in danger of being sent to the treadmill ?—Yes.

5979. *Chairman.*] What meaning do you attach to the word " gathering a few sticks" ?—That if they went into the plantations to gather any wood, or to the hedges, they would be in danger of being sent to the treadmill.

5980. Do you mean, when you say the plantation or the hedges, wood that may have fallen from the trees, or taking branches of trees growing upon the trees or part of the hedges, within the hedges ?—I mean taking the loose wood, not part of branches of the trees.

5981. Loose upon the ground ?—Yes.

5982. Do you know any instance of persons being punished for so doing ?—The case to which I allude ; William Page was, at the time I was writing, taken before the magistrates and punished in the penalty of 12*s.* ; and his offence was gathering some sticks, and he had never been off the road side, he told me.

5983. Your statement goes much further than that ; you say a man gathering few sticks is sure to be sent to the treadmill, and your reason for making that statement was, that one man was taken before the magistrates, and fined 12*s.* for trespassing ?—I presume if any other man had been in the same situation, he would have been treated in the same way.

5984. Can you give an instance of a person being sent to the treadmill for gathering a few sticks ?—I think I can.

5985. Mr. *Hodges.*] Having made that statement in your letter, of gathering a few sticks, was your object to show the unnecessary severity of the law, or to illustrate the fact of the scarcity of fuel in that district ?—My object was to show the scarcity of fuel.

5986. *Chairman.*] When you speak of loose wood lying in the plantations, do you mean wood that might have been lying upon the ground, not bound up, or wood that had been cup up by the directions of the proprietors for the purpose of faggots, and therefore saleable ?—No, I do not.

5987. Lord *Howick.*] Do you mean sticks merely blown down by the wind ?—I mean loose wood that lies in plantations ; they do not allow the people to go to gather those, and the reason is, if they were to allow them to do that, they would be taking the other also.

5988. *Chairman.*] If that is the reason which governs the proprietor, do you not think that a justifiable precaution for the protection of his property ?—Certainly ; I wrote that, in order to show the scarcity of fuel.

5989. You say you " went to the workhouse, and saw some people at dinner, the dinner

dinner consisting of a pint and a half of what they called pea-soup; but when my mother used to make pea-soup, there were both peas and meat in it; but in the workhouse soup I found neither peas nor meat, nor stars on the top of it; there was some bread in it, but not enough"; did you inquire what was the composition of that soup?—I said I found no peas, and there could not be much in; for I think if you will examine the table that was put in, you will find in fourteen gallons of soup there were two quarts of peas.

5990. Mr. *Liddell.*] What is the ordinary proportion?—My mother used to put in more than that.

5991. *Chairman.*] Do you happen to know the proportion of meat that was used?—I think the dietary tables show eighteen pounds of meat to that quantity.

5992. Do you think that insufficient?—I do, for there are no bones in; but we used to think bones helped soup wonderfully; but there are no bones in it, and therefore it does not make good soup.

5993. Will you be so good as to read from the dietary the recipe for making soup in the Ampthill workhouse?—"Fourteen gallons of water, two quarts of peas, half a bushel of potatoes, five pounds of flour, and 18 lbs. of beef," to 56 quarts; no bones in it.

5994. You say that the workhouses that you have seen are destitute of the treadmill?—I never saw a treadmill in one.

5995. Are we to infer from that, that you ever heard of a treadmill in a workhouse?—No, I do not mean that.

5996. What was your meaning in using those expressions?—The meaning is followed up by saying, there is another mill which is a substitute for the treadmill.

5997. Are you quite aware that no one can be sentenced to work upon a treadmill, except by regular conviction under course of law?—Yes, I am aware of that.

5998. Therefore you are aware that in the workhouses there cannot be a treadmill, according to law?—Yes, but there is a substitute for it, which, in my opinion, is equally oppressive.

5999. You believe the standing mill for corn is as oppressive as the treadmill?—I think it is; I never tried the treadmill yet.

6000. Is it your opinion that able-bodied persons in the workhouse should do no work there?—It is not.

6001. How then do you propose they should be employed?—What I complain of is, that those mills should be used when there is no corn to grind.

6002. How are they employed without grinding corn?—It can be done; it is made for that purpose, so that they can put a lever upon them, as I state in my letter.

6003. Did you ever see any mill in actual use without corn being ground in it?—I have not, but I know it is done.

6004. You say that "if the people of the north suffer the introduction of this"—I will not repeat your expression—"system amongst them, it will be morally impossible to prevent wages from falling?"—That is my impression.

6005. This system has been in operation two years at Ampthill; have wages fallen at Ampthill since the system has been in operation?—They have, to an alarming extent.

6006. Your impression is, that wages have generally fallen at Ampthill since the introduction of the Poor Law?—It is; I am alluding to task-work now, that is, that task-work is considerably lower now than it was then, by at least 2*d.* out of every shilling, taking the average.

6007. Making a difference of 2*s.* per week?—Yes.

6008. In the former part of your evidence you stated that task-work had increased since the introduction of the law?—It has.

6009. That farmers were more disposed to give task-work than formerly?—Yes.

6010. And that the men could earn by task-work 1*s.* a week more than at day-wages?—Yes, but they have to do so much more work for it.

6011. Before the introduction of the law, could they earn at task-work 2*s.* more than they now earn?—Yes, that is what the labourers tell me.

6012. Have daily wages fallen since the introduction of the law?—Not much; I do not perceive that they have; they are about stationary.

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6013. Your opinion is, that daily wages have not fallen?—That is my opinion.

6014. How happens it that in Ampthill, where the law has been in operation two years, or more than two years, the daily wages should not have fallen?—That is a question I cannot give any opinion upon, because I do not understand it; all I know is the fact that the price of piece-work is less, and the day-wages are about the same.

6015. But you express in your letter an opinion that the law must necessarily produce a fall of wages; that being your opinion, how do you explain the circumstance of the daily wages not having fallen in Ampthill, where the law has been in operation for two years?—The time will come when they will give less for task-work, and they will give less for day-wages; the reason why I say that the wages will decrease is, that the labourers all say they are obliged to take any money that the employers offer them; they have no remedy now but to take any wages that the employers offer.

6016. If the labourers are under the necessity of taking any wages that the employers offer, in point of fact, have daily wages fallen?—I think not; not yet.

6017. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you known of any cases in the Ampthill Union where the day-wages have been reduced within the last two or three months?—I have known instances where the wages have been reduced; but when I said that wages had not in general declined, I meant generally throughout that part of the country; but there are individuals whom I can name, if necessary, that have reduced their wages from 9*s.* to 8*s.* a week, a week or two before Christmas.

6018. *Chairman.*] If daily wages have not fallen, and the amount of task-work has increased, though the wages paid are lower, has the income of the labourers fallen?—Yes.

6019. You mean that the labourer receives less money than he did before the introduction of the law?—Certainly he does.

6020. You state an instance at the end of your letter "of an individual whom you found living within 100 yards of the house of the curate of the parish, with a family consisting of eight persons, a man, his wife and six children, the oldest under 13 years of age, and this family had had but a very few days' work since last harvest"?—I stated that.

6021. Can you give the name of that individual?—Yes, his name is William Giddens.

6022. In what parish does he reside?—In the parish of Clophill.

6023. You say that just before Christmas wages were reduced from 9*s.* to 8*s.*; is it a practice for farmers to reduce the wages just at that period in any part of the country with which you are acquainted?—In that parish there were only two who did it at that time.

6024. With reference to former periods, did you ascertain whether it was generally the custom or not?—I did not.

6025. Mr. *Baines.*] Are you not aware that a labouring man, who has to work by day-light, must in mid-winter generally work much shorter hours than he does in the summer time?—I am.

6026. Are you not also aware that the practice prevails, in some parts of the country, of reducing the wages for a day's work, in some degree, according to the length of time that the men can work?—I did not find in Bedfordshire, though we were there in the short days, any account that they reduced them, with the exception of those two farmers in one parish; the other farmers in the same parish did not reduce their men in the manner that those two did.

6027. Was this peculiar to the state of things under the new Poor Law, or would it have existed if no alteration had taken place in the Poor Law at all?—The impression was that it was because the labourers were so badly off that they would work for any thing rather than leave it; that was the impression of the working people.

6028. You have said that the working people have not cream and sugar in their tea; had they before the passing of the new law cream and sugar in their tea?—They used a great deal more sugar in their tea before the new law was passed in that part of Bedfordshire than they do now; I used the word cream thinking that it makes the tea the better.

6029. Do you mean to say that their food was better before the passing of the new law than it has been since?—Most assuredly it was better, and they lived better than they do now.

6030. How

6030. How is that accounted for, the wages are pretty much the same; is employment greater?—A little more.

6031. Is it so as to equalize their condition before the law and at present?—Nothing near it.

6032. With respect to fuel, has the change in the law in any way diminished the quantity of fuel in that neighbourhood?—It has diminished the means of the people to get it.

6033. My question is directed to that fuel which is picked up by those persons who, you have said, are liable to be sent to the tread-mill for gathering a few sticks; would they not have been in precisely the same situation before the passing of the law as they are now; since that law has passed has it in any way made them more liable to that punishment now than they were before?—Yes, because they are in more needy circumstances now, and not so able to buy it as they were then, and they are driven to gather it more than they were before.

6034. But if a person was picking up wood in the hedges, or in any other way, before the law, he would have been punished in the same way that he is now?—Certainly.

6035. Then with respect to that there is no difference?—There is not; I did not make use of that expression in the letter, intimating that there was any difference in that; it was showing that the poor people could not get much fuel, and the consequence was, that in this cold weather they were very badly off.

6036. That arising out of the want of fuel in the country, not from the change of the law?—No; but their means of purchasing fuel are not so great as they were, and consequently they suffer more from want of fuel than they did before.

6037. The difference being, that before the passing of the new law they got assistance from the overseer, whereas now they do not get that assistance?—Certainly.

6038. Mr. *Wakley.*] You were asked whether the labouring man did not work a less number of hours in the winter than in the summer?—It is the fact; they go to work at daylight, and they generally work as long as they can see; I am alluding to those that are threshing; but now they work from six to six.

6039. Are you not of opinion that he eats as much, and that his family eat as much, in winter as summer?—If he can get it.

6040. Do you not consider that the clothing and fuel are more expensive in the winter than in summer?—Certainly, it is.

6041. Mr. *Liddel.*] And much more necessary?—Yes.

6042. Mr. *Hodges.*] You have stated that two-thirds of the people of Ampthill have not constant employment; do you mean that two-thirds have no employers to whom they look regularly for employment?—I do.

6043. Did you hear on that account any expression of complaint or dissatisfaction towards the farmers of the parish?—I did.

6044. Then, if we have heard that in other places the new law has had the effect of producing more kindly feelings reciprocally between the employers and the labourers, this desirable effect has not been produced in the Union of Ampthill?—It has not, nor in any part of the country, but the reverse, to an alarming extent.

6045. Lord *John Russell.*] Are you aware of the feeling that prevailed in Ampthill and the neighbourhood previously to the introduction of the law?—I am aware that there was some misunderstanding between the farmers and labourers previously to the introduction of the law; I know that, not from my own knowledge, but from what I have heard.

6046. Did you ever happen to read a petition from the inhabitants of the Hundred of Redbornstoke, which was presented to the House of Commons in the year 1829 or 1830?—I did not.

6047. Mr. *Scrope.*] I understand the facts you have stated, as to the condition of the labouring classes in the Ampthill Union, are in great part such as you have collected yourself from personal observation at a late period?—Yes.

6048. But the facts which you have stated regarding their condition at a previous period, before the introduction of the new law, you are not, from your own personal knowledge, at all acquainted with?—I am not; my own knowledge extends only to the period I have been down in that county.

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6049. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did you, on the 14th of December, together with Mr. Crabtree, receive instructions from me to go down to the unions of Ampthill, Woburn and Bedford?—We did.

6050. When did you take your departure?—We took our departure on the day following, the 15th.

6051. Did you receive instructions, of which you made use, to show for what purpose you were going down into that union?—We did.

6052. Had you any secrets as to the object of your mission, or as to the inquiries that you were directed to make?—Not at all; we made it known to every intelligent person that we came in company with; we told them our business; we told them what we were come for; we showed them our instructions, and made it known to every intelligent person who and what we were.

6053. Did you show your instructions to Mr. Adey, the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner of that district?—We did; when we went to Ampthill the first thing we did, before ever we had made it known to any body who and what we were, we went to the workhouse; we saw the clerk of the board and the governor of the workhouse, and asked him if he would allow strangers to go in, and, after asking us some questions, he did, and bye-and-bye he says "Well, what are you?" he said "You seem plain-dealing sort of people," and we showed him our instructions, and told him what we had come for; that we were come to collect some information as to the working of the new law in that part of the country, Mr. Adey having in his report said that he challenged inquiry among the poor themselves.

6054. Have you also, in the papers, read the discussions that have taken place in the House, that the poor in that district have very much improved in their circumstances, and that, among other things, they have a well-regulated workhouse at Ampthill?—I have read that and the Report of the Commissioners, that there was a memorial sent up, that they offered them a well-regulated workhouse.

6055. What time have you spent in making the inquiries which you were desired to make in those three unions?—About 13 or 14 weeks.

6056. Have you been there all the time, with the exception of about 10 days, for which period you returned to London?—Yes, from the 15th of December.

6057. Have you been going about amongst the labourers and farmers, and amongst the professional gentlemen residing in those parishes, to ascertain the facts as to the condition of the labourers in those districts?—We have gone both to the labourers, the tradesmen, the farmers and to the clergymen; in all cases to every one we could get access to.

6058. Has that been your whole employment from the time that I gave you instructions to the time that you came up here on Friday last, with the exception of the 10 days when you returned to London?—It has, entirely so.

6059. And have you, during this peregrination, visited a great many of the labourers at their cottages?—A great many.

6060. Have you asked them what their condition was before the new law came into operation, and what it is now?—I have.

6061. You have visited three parishes in the Ampthill Union, and ascertained the whole number of the labourers that are employed in those three parishes?—We have done so.

6062. Can you tell what proportion the labourers bear to the population, or nearly so, in those parishes, and throughout the rest of the union?—About one in six; as far as we were able to ascertain, the whole number of labourers in the three parishes, and the population of those parishes, we found the labourers amounted to about one in six of the whole population.

6063. There is the parish of Clophill, which appears upon the Parliamentary Returns to have a population of 978; did you in that parish find 186 labourers?—We did; when we say labourers, we mean men, and those whom they call boys, all those who go to work for the farmers.

6064. You mean the heads of families, the labourers themselves, and, in some cases, one or more of their sons?—Yes, I mean those of 15 or 16 or 17 years of age; if they went to work for the farmers, we called them labourers.

6065. Did you count the boys under 16?—No, we took those at about 15 or 16, those that went to work for the farmers.

6066. Mr. *Baines.*] You say that there were 186 labourers out of a population of 978; those labourers would, a number of them, have families?—Yes.

6067. When you say that one-sixth of the population is employed in that way,

it would vary the proportion a great deal from one-sixth, if you took those employed and those dependent upon them?—It would.

6068. How much would that swell the number of persons, either employed in husbandry, or dependent upon those so employed?—I do not know.

6069. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did you go through the parish of Shitlington in the same manner?—Yes, we did.

6070. There the population is stated as being 1,307 in 1831; did you find there 165 labourers employed in the same manner?—Yes, we did.

6071. Did you go through the parish of Westoning?—Yes, we did.

6072. And there you pursued the same plan?—Yes.

6073. There the population of 1831 is stated at 627, and the number of labourers 125?—Yes.

6074. Those three parishes present together a population of 2,912, and the number of labourers whom you have ascertained to be employed are 476?—That is correct.

6075. That is nearly one in six that are employed in this description of labour?—As nearly as we could come.

6076. In the parish of Westoning, did you endeavour to ascertain the incomes that those labourers received weekly and annually before the new law came into operation?—We did, as far as it was possible to get at the particulars, both from them and from the returns which have been lately ordered, together; we endeavoured, as far as we could, to get at those facts.

6077. And you have ascertained what the incomes of those labourers had been for the year 1837?—We have.

6078. Are you prepared with a tabular statement, which will show the circumstances of three of those labourers?—I am.

6079. Will you read the cases of those labourers?—I will. This is a description in 1834 of three labourers in the parish of Westoning, in the Union of Ampthill.

6080. This tabular statement is divided into 36 columns, is it not?—It is.

6081. Will you read then the names of the three labourers that you are going to speak to in the first instance?—John Carter, William Odell and Benjamin Cox.

6082. What was the age of John Carter in 1834?—Thirty-five.

6083. What was the age of William Odell in 1834?—Thirty-seven.

6084. What was the age of Benjamin Cox in 1834?—Forty-one.

6085. Will you read the circumstances in which those men were, and what their employments were, and what their earnings were?—The work that they were employed in was, that they were jobbing labourers, that is, doing various things for the farmers; we call them jobbers, because they do various kinds of work, and are not confined to one kind of work; they have each of them a wife and children living with their parents; Carter has two children; William Odell, four; Benjamin Cox has five; the age of the oldest child of John Carter is five years; William Odell's is 12, and Benjamin Cox's is 16; the age of the youngest of John Carter's is two; the age of the youngest of William Odell's is one; the age of the youngest of Benjamin Cox's is one. The number of weeks the labourers were employed in 1834: John Carter was employed only 10 weeks, William Odell was employed 17 weeks, Benjamin Cox was employed 12 weeks. The rate of wages per week: John Carter received 9*s.*, William Odell received 10*s.*, Benjamin Cox received 8*s.* The amount of wages of labour for employment in 1834 was: for John Carter, 4*l.* 10*s.*, for William Odell, 8*l.* 10*s.*, for Benjamin Cox, 4*l.* 16*s.*, and additional for harvest; they always make something more in harvest, and in each of those cases we have allowed them 2*l.* additional for harvest. The amount of earnings of the labourer's wife and children: of Carter there is no account of the amount; William Odell, 10*l.* 8*s.*; the amount of Benjamin Cox, 16*l.* 2*s.*; additional for gleaning,—John Carter's wife we have allowed 10*s.*, she, not being at plaiting, goes gleaning.

6086. Have you found that the families of many of those labourers are employed in straw-plaiting and lace-making?—A great many of them are engaged either in the plait or the making of lace.

6087. And from that source of employment they derive income for their families which labourers who have not those advantages cannot derive?—Yes, this amount of money from Cox's and from Odell's families is for making straw-plait.

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6088. William Odell, having a wife and four children, they could earn 10*l.* 8*s.* in that occupation?—Yes.

6089. Benjamin Cox, having a wife and four children, you ascertained that they could get 16*l.*?—That was the statement they made to us.

6090. Mr. *Estcourt.*] That they did get it in that year?—Yes.

6091. Mr. *Fielden.*] John Carter you give credit for 10*s.* at gleaning, suppose his wife to be employed in that way?—Certainly, because John Carter's wife is not plaiting, and we took it for granted she would go to glean.

6092. Mr. *Barneby.*] Are you aware how much they pick up in gleaning?—I have known them pick up two bushels, and two and a half; that is what they have stated to us.

6093. That you consider to be worth only 10*s.*?—Two bushels would be worth 10*s.*; that we consider it worth.

6094. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you proceed with the other items?—Allowance from the parish for work, and relief for labourer and his family: John Carter received from the parish, in 1834, 13*l.* 18*s.*

6095. *Chairman.*] John Carter had only two children in 1834, and he was aged 35; was he an able-bodied man?—Yes.

6096. Did you find that the practice in that parish was to give parish relief to able-bodied labourers when they were in health and had only two children?—Yes.

6097. In what shape was it given?—It was given in money; they called it going to gravel-pits; they used to send them to the gravel-pits; and, if you will examine the returns that have come in of that parish, you will find those men with their names receiving so much money in this year; it is from that source that I derive the figures of the amount of money received: William Odell 14*l.*; Benjamin Cox, 16*l.* 10*s.*; total income of family for John Carter, 20*l.* 18*s.*; total income of William Odell, 34*l.* 18*s.*; total income of Benjamin Cox, 39*l.* 8*s.*

6098. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you state what the outgoings from those three families were, according to the statements which you have received from them?—The outgoings for rent and fuel and rates, were, for John Carter, 6*l.* 10*s.*

6099. *Chairman.*] Did you find that those persons who were in the habit of receiving parish relief, paid rates?—Not in 1834, but they do now.

6100. But this refers to 1834?—The word rates should not have been in that head, because it is not applicable to 1834, but applicable to 1837.

6101. Mr. *Hodges.*] Will the amount be affected by striking out the word rates?—No; the amount of the rent and fuel of William Odell, 6*l.* 18*s.*; Benjamin Cox, 6*l.* 18*s.*

6102. Mr. *Fielden.*] What was the rent?—One paid 1*s.* a week, and the other two, 3*l.* a year each.

6103. Have they any ground attached to their cottages?—A small garden; it may be three or four poles.

6104. Not ground enough to grow potatoes for the consumption of the family?—Not in those instances; and for fuel, we reckon it costs them, taking winter and summer, about 1*s.* 6*d.* per week; in the winter it will take them 2*s.*, but in the summer it will be less; the net income applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries, is, for John Carter, 14*l.* 8*s.*; William Odell, 2*l.* 8*s.*; Benjamin Cox, 32*l.* 10*s.*

6105. Will you give the next item?—Number of persons in the labourer's family; in John Carter's, four; William Odell's, six; Benjamin Cox's, seven; average income per head, for the year 1834, 3*l.* 12*s.* for John Carter; 4*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for William Odell; 4*l.* 13*s.*, for Benjamin Cox; average income per head, per week, 1*s.* 4*d.* for John Carter; 1*s.* 9½*d.* for William Odell; 1*s.* 9½*d.* for Benjamin Cox.

6106. Lord *John Russell.*] I asked you whether you had been aware that a petition was presented from the Hundred of Redbornstoke in the year 1829, describing the state of that hundred before the Poor Law Amendment Act was introduced, and you said, you were not aware of it; I wish to read some part of it, that you may see whether it agrees with what you have heard, and whether it agrees with what you consider the present state of that hundred; it was, "A petition of the magistrates of the hundred of Redbornstoke, in the county of Bedford, and of the churchwardens and overseers of the several parishes

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parishes therein, in behalf of the agricultural and labouring poor of the said hundred;" and, amongst other things, it is stated, "That the hundred of Redbornstoke comprises the small market town of Ampthill, and 13 other parishes;—that it possesses no manufacture of any kind, except those of lace and straw-plait, which are in so depressed a state as to yield little benefit to the poor;" after some other statements with respect to the number of able-bodied persons, and their increase, it is stated, "that the number of able-bodied men is in consequence become so great, that many farmers refuse to employ their proper proportion of them upon their farms, and throw them, both for work and maintenance, upon the hands of the overseers, retaining for their own service the smallest number compatible with the management of their business; that, in consequence of this injudicious practice, the number of labourers who are now almost constantly on the hands of the overseers is become formidably great, varying in the different parishes of that hundred from 16 to 79, and amounting for the whole hundred, at some seasons of the year, to 618; that the present mode, to which the overseers are in a great measure driven, of employing such considerable numbers of men in large bodies in the repair of the highways, and of paying them out of the poor-rates, has, in the opinion of the petitioners, operated with far greater efficacy than any other cause in producing those numerous and formidable evils under which argriculturists now labour, and must, if suffered to continue, lead to consequences most disastrous to society." Have you heard that in those times there were a great many labourers employed on the highways?—I have, and I believe it is true that there were a great many.

6107. The petition, after giving an account of the diminution of capital, says that "while they cannot but regard the unprofitable expenditure of so much property year after year, as a great pecuniary evil, both to themselves and the public, they look upon the moral effects, the idleness, insubordination and crime, which the present system of employing them has produced upon the character of the labourers themselves, as far more pernicious and deplorable; that such is the idleness, such the aversion to hard labour, already contracted under the present mode of employment, by many of the labourers, who have for a considerable time been accustomed to it, that they frequently refuse to encounter certain kinds of work, such as threshing, to which men never used to object, and prefer their present idle and unprofitable occupation on the roads, with little more than half the wages, to harder work and full pay; that the present system, if suffered to continue, must, in the opinion of the petitioners, eventually infect the whole body of agricultural labourers, and produce such universal and inveterate idleness as shall be incompatible with the due cultivation of the soil." Have you heard that the custom of employing men on the highways did produce the aversion to harder and more difficult kinds of labour?—The system of paying men for not working as much as for working, was an inducement for them not to work, and it congregated them together in a manner which, as I stated before when I was examined, was an evil which was complained of, and which did produce the effects stated in that petition, I am persuaded of it.

6108. It is further stated in that petition, "that the custom which the overseers are compelled to adopt, of employing the surplus labourers in large bodies in the repairs of the roads, by affording them frequent opportunities of discussing, brooding over and exaggerating the grievances to which they think themselves unnecessarily and unjustly exposed, has produced in their minds a general and settled feeling of hostility towards the farmers, whom they look upon as their oppressors, which not unfrequently vents itself in violent personal reproaches, or in threats of injury to the person or property of the overseers, threats which have sometimes been carried into effect, and have driven the overseers to seek for protection in the discharge of their duty by an indictment in a court of justice; that such is the strength and prevalence to which this spirit of hostility on the part of the labourers has in some places already attained as almost to bid defiance to control, and such the mutual enmity and opposition which it has produced between themselves and the farmers as to render their intercourse in many instances a source of annoyance, and the office of overseer almost intolerable." Have you heard that there used to be those complaints of the manner in which the overseers were insulted, and the indisposition to undertake the office?—I have heard that that was the case.

6109. The petition likewise says: "that these evils, however, great as they

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are, are not the worst consequences of the present system; that it is, on the contrary, productive of crimes still more formidable and injurious to society, and of almost every degree of moral turpitude; of hedge-breaking, cutting down live wood, and of day poaching, in the first instance; and in the next, of night poaching in large bodies, of breaking open and robbing the premises of farmers, of wantonly destroying their property, sheep-stealing, highway robbery, &c.; that the detection of crimes of every kind is become extremely difficult, in consequence of the great numbers infected with this felonious spirit, and the system of intimidation which they exercise over those who would otherwise give evidence against the offenders; that, under these circumstances, it has been deemed necessary, in some places in the hundred, to appoint night watchers to protect the property of the inhabitants; that these are some of those evils arising chiefly from the present mode of employing and paying the surplus labourers, under which the petitioners have long suffered, and to the uninterrupted progress of which they cannot look forward without great dismay;" have you heard statements which would induce you to think that that is a correct account of the state, at that time, of the Hundred of Redbornstoke?—To a very considerable extent; I believe that those statements were at that time true.

6110. Do you believe, likewise, that they arose, in a great measure, as those petitioners state, from the manner of employing and paying the surplus labourers?—I do.

6111. Do you think, upon the whole, that that would be a correct picture of the town of Ampthill and the Hundred of Redbornstoke at the present time?—Perhaps it may have been rather coloured a little; I should think, taking it in general, from all the accounts I can gather, that that was something near the truth; I should think that that was the state in which the country was at that time.

6112. Do you consider, or not, that if it were so stated at present it would be an exaggeration of the truth?—I believe it would be very little; I believe that there is very much of that applicable now that was applicable at that time; that is, first, as regards poaching, there is not so much of that, for the best reason in the world, there is very little to poach; as regards sheep-stealing, all the experienced men in that part of the country say there never was so much sheep-stealing as there has been this last winter, in that part of the country; and there never was so much petty crime practised amongst the labourers, those who have no constant work, as at the present time; it does not follow because they are not convicted and recorded, that there is no crime committed; I am quite certain, from all the information that I could get, that the ill feeling between the labouring people and those above them is very bad; there is a very strong and ill feeling now, much more than is generally imagined, much more than I have witnessed in the north on any occasion.

6113. You state that the practice of employing those surplus labourers on the highway has been discontinued?—It has.

6114. Has not that made some improvement, both in the state and in the feelings of the labourers with regard to the employers?—A great many now have nothing to do; during the last winter they have had no work at all, so that their condition has been worse than it was even when they were on the roads; then they had something to depend upon; now they have nothing to depend upon.

6115. Do you mean to say, that during the whole winter they were without any employment, and without relief from the poor-rates?—A great many were; on the 17th of February there were, in Ampthill parish alone, 50 persons out of employment.

6116. From what do they derive their means of subsistence for themselves and their families?—That is a question that they could not even themselves answer; I have asked them how they lived, they seemed puzzled; the answer was, "We cannot tell;" some part of their family would be earning a trifle by plaiting, some by making lace; but those who get a trifle by making lace, it is very little indeed; and they eke out a subsistence in that sort of way; and in the back end of the year they have gathered up some potatoes; they were living on their potatoes; that was the manner in which they lived; I have frequently seen them have potatoes boiled, and their expression was, "if they could get pepper it was a luxury;" they have lived in that sort of way.

6117. Such having been the condition of the labouring population, as described in this petition, and which you confirm as far as your knowledge extends, do you think

think that it would be at all fair and just to attribute to the new Poor Law the present condition of the labourers, which you describe as very hard and very suffering?—But their condition now is much worse than it was then; and inasmuch as they are worse now, as far as regards deficiency of necessaries of life, in comparison with what there was at that time, in so far as that I attribute to the introduction of the new Poor Law.

6118. Do not you find that the farmers take a greater number of labourers into employment on their farms than they did before?—Not many more; some of the farmers do not take any more, some take one more.

6119. Are you acquainted with the village of Westoning?—Yes, I have made some particular inquiries into that village.

6120. What did you hear to be the general character of that village?—There the poor, I think, some of the families there, are as badly off as in any parish that we visited.

6121. But with respect to their character in past years, without speaking of individuals, as to poaching and depredations?—That there are in that parish now a good many poachers, and have been, and it has borne the name of harbouring poachers, and there have been two or three committed to prison from that parish for poaching. While we were in Bedfordshire, one man who had buried his wife, under very unfortunate circumstances (he had no work, he has either two or three children, I think three), went out with another man, who was an old poacher, to seek for something for victuals; the family had not tasted food for two days, but a bit of bread that his sister had given him,—either he or his children; they went out, I believe, with the intention of getting something if they could; they had a gun with them; they did not use it, but they were found some yards from the foot-path, after the sun had set in the evening, and they now are in prison for poaching; and no labourer in the parish bore a better character than one of them did; if he had had work to do, he would have done it, but having no work, and having been without victuals for two days, with the exception of a little that his sister had given them, he went out to seek something, and all the people that knew him bore testimony that he would not have gone if he had had work to have done.

6122. Are there many farmers in Westoning who are capable of employing a good number of labourers, or are they generally poor farmers?—I do not know whether the farmers are poor or not; this I know, that there are not four men and a boy to every 100 acres of land in the parish; in addition to that, there are about 12 or 14 labourers employed out of the parish; my impression is, from all the information I could gather, that there was a sufficiency of land to employ the labourers, if they thought proper.

6123. Is there not an indisposition on the part of the farmers to employ men who are reckoned either bad or unsettled characters?—There certainly is; and one of those persons that is now in prison for poaching from the parish of Westoning; I saw a letter from him the other day; it had come to his mother from Bedford, in which he stated that if he could only get work, if the farmers would only employ him, he never would poach again, and that because they had no work, they had been driven into this system of living.

6124. Mr. *Fielden.*] What were the unfortunate circumstances of the man who has been convicted of poaching to which you just now alluded?—His wife died; she was confined; three days after her confinement, an inflammation took place; she was found to be very ill; they applied to the overseer; the overseer gave them a note to come to Ampthill, a distance of four miles, to the relieving officer to get a doctor for her; the relieving officer would not look at the note.

6125. *Chairman.*] What is the name of that individual?—Mark Herbert, in the parish of Westoning.

6126. Mr. *Fielden.*] What became of the wife of this poor man?—Her father went back the same evening, and there was no doctor, and she was getting still worse; they went again the next morning, and applied to the relieving officer again; he would not grant them an order; the surgeon happened to be in the village of Westoning at the time; they made known the case to the surgeon, and he said, they must go again to Ampthill and get an order from the relieving officer, so that he could attend; he said, "I am going back to Ampthill; you go to the relieving officer, and tell him I want to see him."

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6127. *Chairman.*] What is the name of the surgeon?—Mr. Chapman.

6128. Is he a medical man employed by the union?—He is; he sent for the relieving officer; the relieving officer said, "If it is one of your idle days, it is not one of mine; I shall not go;" the surgeon saw the relieving officer going to church, and called him in, and thus got an order to attend to the woman; he attended on her four times, but she died of an inflammation in two or three days.

6129. How long had she been ill before she was attended by the doctor?—She was confined on the Thursday, and on the Saturday application was made, and she died on the Wednesday following.

6130. When did the doctor see her?—On the Sunday.

6131. At what time was the application made?—On the Saturday.

6132. At what time in the day?—I think about the middle of the day, but I would not be sure to an hour or two.

6133. Application was then made to the overseer?—Application was made to the overseer on Saturday; he writes a note to the relieving officer at Ampthill; that note is not attended to.

6134. When does the relieving officer get the note?—On the Saturday; it was carried by the woman's father to the relieving officer.

6135. At what time did the relieving officer get it?—I should suppose in the afternoon, as far as my information goes, towards four or five o'clock in the afternoon.

6136. When did the medical man see the woman?—On Sunday.

6137. At what time?—I believe in the forenoon of Sunday; he came immediately after he had got the order, and the order was given when the relieving officer was going to church.

6138. Do you say that the relieving officer, on the first application, refused to give the order?—I do say so.

6139. What reason did he give for refusing?—I cannot tell; he would not look at the note.

6140. Do you mean that the woman's father put into the relieving officer's hands a letter from the overseer, desiring him to give an order for medical attendance for this woman, and that the relieving officer refused to open the note?—I do, and the woman's father will come forward and state that before the Committee, if required.

6141. This was on the Saturday afternoon; what did the father of the woman do upon being refused by the relieving officer?—He came back to the parish.

6142. What step did he then take?—I am not quite sure what step he took then [*the Witness referred to his papers.*] It does not appear that any steps were taken that night, after he got back; but the doctor was in the neighbourhood the next morning, the Sunday morning; he was attending a woman in that parish.

6143. At what time was the doctor there?—Early on the Sunday morning.

6144. Did the man then go to the doctor?—He did, and stated his case, and the doctor came and examined the case, and said, "Go to Ampthill, and I will meet you at Ampthill directly, and tell the relieving officer I want him."

6145. The woman's father, finding that the doctor was in Westoning parish on the Sunday morning, applied to him?—On the Sunday morning it was the husband who applied to the doctor, and it was the husband who came to Ampthill on the Sunday.

6146. On the Sunday morning it was the husband who, finding the doctor was in the immediate neighbourhood, sent to him, and desired him to come to the house?—Yes.

6147. Did he go to the house?—I am informed that he went and saw her situation, and told him that they must go to Ampthill for something for her, and have some leeches.

6148. The doctor came and saw the woman, and examined her state?—Yes.

6149. And desired the husband to go to Ampthill immediately?—Yes.

6150. Did he desire him to go to Ampthill in order to bring back some leeches, or something else that he might want?—First to get an order, and then to bring some prescription.

6151. The husband, in consequence, went to Ampthill?—He did, and he went to the relieving officer, and told him that Doctor Chapman wanted to see him; the answer he gave was, "I shall not go; if it is one of your idle days, it is not one of mine."

6152. The

6152. The relieving officer made that answer to the woman's husband?—Yes.

6153. How happened it that the overseer, being applied to in this instance, did not himself give an order for medical attendance upon the woman?—In such instances as these the doctor does not attend to an order from the overseer.

6154. Do not you know, that under the Poor Law Amendment Act, and under the rules of the Commissioners, the overseers have the power of giving a medical order in any case of emergency that may occur?—I do.

6155. If this woman having been recently confined, and being very ill, required immediate assistance, do you not consider that a case of urgent necessity?—I do.

6156. Do not you know that any magistrate has the power of giving an order in such a case?—I do.

6157. How, then, can you account for it, that the overseer did not give an order upon the medical man?—I know that such men can give orders, but I know that they have been refused, and are refused.

6158. Do you know that such an order given, would have been refused by the medical man?—I do not know whether it would have been in that instance, but I do know other cases where the overseers have given orders to the doctor, and he has refused to go.

6159. Do you know what he has stated as the ground of his refusal?—Yes; that they are not paupers; that he contracts for the paupers, and does not contract for all the poor.

6160. What is the form of the medical contract in Ampthill?—I do not know.

6161. Have you ever seen the form of the medical contract under which the medical men engage to attend the poor in the Ampthill Union?—I have not; I never had the means of seeing it.

6162. I will read to you this part of it; this is a contract between certain guardians and Daniel Bull, surgeon, of Cranfield, in the county of Bedford: "Daniel Bull agrees to attend the poor of that division of the Union of Ampthill called the Cranfield district, consisting of the parishes of Cranfield, Marston, Moretaine and Lidlington, and to furnish all medicines and other requisites in all medical, surgical and midwifery cases, and to vaccinate the paupers of the said district, whether belonging to any parish of the union or not; to attend any order of a relieving officer, magistrate, churchwarden or overseer, without inquiring whether the person so directed to be attended be a pauper or not, to inspect the inmates of the workhouses," and so on, in the said district; should you not consider, under this contract, that the medical man would have been bound to attend to the order of the overseer in such a case?—When I stated that I had proof of a medical man not attending to the order of the overseer, that is the medical man that I was alluding to.

6163. Then, if those expressions which I have read are the terms of his contract, should you not conceive that if the medical man had acted in the way you have described, he has violated his contract?—I am not aware whether the order that was given by the overseer of Westoning (for I wish to go back to that now), was such an order as would have induced the doctor to attend; but I believe the note which he gave, was a note to the relieving officer, that Elizabeth Herbert was in a very dangerous state, and requesting him to give a medical order.

6164. If the overseer, the case being one of danger, gave an order to the patient's husband or father to the relieving officer, instead of giving it directly to the medical officer, should you think that the overseer had done his duty?—I should think not; if the overseer was in possession of one of the printed forms that they give to the doctor to give to those who apply to him; if he gave the order to the relieving officer, instead of to the doctor himself, I think he was not doing his duty: I am not aware whether he had a printed form in his possession; and it is very likely that he might have sent a note to the relieving officer, instead of to the doctor himself, as the doctor and the relieving officer live near each other.

6165. This is a passage from a paper which, I am told, is sent by the board of guardians to every parish in the Ampthill Union: "In cases of sudden and urgent necessity, such as serious illness, or calamitous accident, if there are proper grounds for supposing that evil would arise from the delay of allowing relief to

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be administered in its usual course, the overseer has the power of directing relief to be given in medicine, by the medical officer of the district;" these being the instructions of the board of guardians, and the case being such as you describe, should you not consider that it was the duty of the overseer to have given an order upon the medical officer, and that it was the duty of the medical officer, in compliance with the terms of his contract, to attend to that order?—I think it was; and I think it was the duty of the relieving officer to look at the note when it was presented to him.

6166. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know whether the man who lost his wife knew that Mr. Bull had contracted to attend the poor?—Mr. Bull is not the medical officer of that department of the union; that is Mr. Chapman.

6167. The poor man made his application to the relieving officer?—He made his application first to the overseer; he then received a note from the overseer to the relieving officer, stating that the case was an extreme one, and the result proved that it was; and the note was not looked at.

6168. Will you proceed with your tabular statement respecting Carter, Odell and Cox, and show what they had, and what they were employed on in 1837?—This was a contrast which I made of two separate years; I took first 1834, and then followed out their condition in 1837;—work employed in in 1837: John Carter is threshing; William Odell is at jobbing-labour again, and Benjamin Cox is jobbing; number of weeks' employment for John Carter in 1837, 43; the number of weeks which William Odell is employed in 1837, is 38 weeks; the number of weeks which Benjamin Cox is employed in 1837, is 52 weeks; he is in constant work; the rate of wages per week: John Carter receives 9*s.*, William Odell receives 8*s.*, and Benjamin Cox receives 9*s.*; the amount of wages of labour at employment for John Carter, is 19*l.* 7*s.*; William Odell receives 15*l.* 4*s.*; Benjamin Cox receives 23*l.* 8*s.*; additional for harvest, the same as before, 2*l.* in each case; earnings of the labourer's wife and children: Carter's wife is not a plaiter, she gleans; William Odell's wife and children, 10*l.* 8*s.*; Benjamin Cox's wife and family earned 10*l.* 8*s.*, that is, 4*s.* a week they made by plaiting.

6169. *Chairman.*] Is not one family more numerous than the other?—One of Cox's family is a boy, and he does not plait; then for gleaning for Carter, 10*s.*; allowance from parish for 1837, nothing; total income of the family: of John Carter, 21*l.* 17*s.*; William Odell, 27*l.* 12*s.*; Benjamin Cox, 35*l.* 16*s.*; outgoings for rent, fuel and rates: for Carter, 6*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; for Odell, 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; for Benjamin Cox, 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

6170. Formerly the outgoings consisted of rent and fuel, and the rates are now added?—Since the passing of this new law poor people are all rated to the poor-rates, and they used not before.

6171. Are those rates paid by them?—Yes.

6172. Are none of them excused by the magistrates on account of poverty?—I am not sure of the amount in this parish that were excused in the parish of Ampthill; I think there are only four exceptions in the parish, notwithstanding all their poverty.

6173. Four who do not actually pay the rates?—Yes, the overseer; I happened to be acquainted with him, for he came to the house that we stopped at sometimes in the evening; and he stated to me that they had, I think he said four, that were excepted; but these are families that would not be excused at all.

6174. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] How many rates are there?—Three eighteen-penny rates.

6175. Do you know at what rate they are assessed in cottages?—No; I know that the rate was 1*s.* 6*d.*

6176. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have they gardens?—Very small gardens, three or four poles.

6177. Are they not used as potato-ground?—They have not much; they grow a few potatoes, but not a sufficiency.

6178. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you proceed with the statement?—For medical clubs I have no account.

6179. Have you been informed that the poor persons residing in the Ampthill Union are, many of them, compelled to pay to medical clubs, or to have no attendance?—The doctors state, and I am prepared with the names of those who state, that if the families are not in medical clubs, they will not attend upon them, except they are able to put the money down; and I have the rules of one of the

medical

medical clubs, issued by one of the doctors; net income applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries: in John Carter's case, 15*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; in William Odell's case, 20*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*; in Benjamin Cox's case, 28*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* The number of persons in the family of Carter's case is, five; in Odell's, seven; in Cox's, eight. Average income per head for the year: for Carter, 3*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*; Odell, 2*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*; Cox, 3*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* Income per head per week for 1837: 1*s.* 2*d* for Carter; 1*s.* 2½*d.* for Odell; 1*s.* 4½*d.* for Cox. Income per head per week for 1834: for Carter was 1*s.* 4*d.*; Odell, 1*s.* 9½*d.*; Cox, 1*s.* 9½*d.*

6180. That shows that Carter had 2*d.* a head less for his family to live upon in 1837 than in 1834?—Yes.

6181. And Odell had 8*d.* per head less?—Yes.

6182. And Cox 5*d.* per head less?—That is correct.

6183. *Chairman.*] Cox's children have grown up, have they not?—Yes, but plaiting is considerably worse, it does not make so much money; the difference between the price paid for plait in 1837 and 1834 is something like 25 per cent.

6184. The price has fallen?—Very considerably; that which in 1834 would have fetched 1*s.* 4*d.* a score would not now fetch more than 1*s.*

6185. What are Cox's children?—Girls, I think.

6186. The eldest are girls?—Yes, four are girls.

6187. How old is the eldest girl?—The eldest of Cox's in 1837 was 19.

6188. Was she employed in-doors at plaiting?—Yes.

6189. Could she not have got out to service?—I do not know whether she could or not.

6190. You do not know whether she tried to get out to service or not?—No, but the girls in that part of the country do not go out to service much; they stop at home to this plaiting.

6191. Do not the farmers employ servants?—Yes.

6192. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you be prepared, in the course of two or three days, to put in a statement showing every one of those families that you have visited in Westoning, in the same way that this statement does?—I will; I will endeavour to get it ready; I had one in the course of preparation, but it was not finished.

[*Mr. Chadwick delivered in certain Papers.—Vide* Appendix.]

APPENDIX.

AMPTHILL UNION.

A RETURN of the NUMBER of WORKHOUSES in *Ampthill* Union; in what Parish each is situate; the Dietaries of each Workhouse; the Classification practised in each Workhouse; and stating whether any, and if any, what, Alterations have been made in the Dietary and Classification since the formation of the Union; and the Reason for such, if any, Alterations.

N° of Workhouses in Union.	Names of Parishes in which the Workhouses are situate.	Dietary of each Workhouse.	Alteration in Dietary of each Workhouse (if any).	Reasons for Alteration in Dietary.	Classification in each Workhouse.	Alteration in the Classification in each Workhouse (if any).	Reasons for Alteration in Classification of each Workhouse.
1	Ampthill -	*See* one attached.	- none -	—	- - The classification in the workhouse is simply— Wards and yards for Men. " " Women. " " Boys. " " Girls.	- - None at present; but the guardians have in contemplation of effecting a more complete classification, by dividing the yards, which are now very large, and making other wards, and day-rooms for the old and infirm of both sexes.	—

The Returns for each year are alike.

DIETARY for able-bodied MEN and WOMEN in the *Ampthill* Union Workhouse.

	Breakfast.		Dinner.					Supper.		
	Bread.	Gruel.	Bread.	Meat.	Potatoes.	Soup.	Pudding.	Bread.	Cheese.	Broth.
	oz.	*pints.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*lbs.*	*pints.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*pints.*
Sunday - - -	4	1½	4	4	1	–	–	4	–	1½
Monday - - -	4	1½	4	–	–	1½	–	6	1	–
Tuesday - - -	4	1½	4	4	1	–	–	4	–	1½
Wednesday - - -	4	1½	4	–	–	1½	–	6	1	–
Thursday - - -	4	1½	4	4	1	–	–	4	–	1½
Friday - - - -	4	1½	–	–	–	–	14	6	1	–
Saturday - - -	4	1½	4	–	–	1½	–	6	1	–

Old people, of 60 years of age and upwards, may be allowed 1 oz. of tea, 7 oz. of butter and 8 oz. of sugar per week, in lieu of gruel for breakfast, if deemed expedient to make this change.

Children under nine years of age to be dieted at discretion; above nine, to be allowed the same quantities as the able-bodied.

Sick to be dieted as directed by the medical officer.

WOBURN UNION. (Monday.) Aspley, Woburn, Beds.

Sir, 7th February 1838.

You will receive herewith enclosed the remainder of the Returns ordered by The House of Commons; viz. Medical Return; Dietary of the Workmen, &c.; Number of Workhouses built, &c.; Average Number of Inmates in Workhouse, &c.; and Amount of Rates excused, &c.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, (signed) *Will^m Cole*, Clerk.

E. Chadwick, Esq., Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

A RETURN of the NUMBER of WORKHOUSES, &c.

Number of Workhouses in Union.	Name of Parish in which Workhouse is situated.	Dietary of Workhouse.	Alteration in Dietary (if any).	Reasons for Alteration in Dietary.	Classification.	Alteration in Classification (if any).	Reasons for Alteration in Classification.
1	Woburn	As annexed	As annexed	- - On complaint of its insufficiency.	- -Able-bodied men or women, men above 60, women do., boys under 16, girls do.	None	—

(signed) *Will^m Cole*, Clerk.

DIETARY for Able-bodied MEN and WOMEN in the *Woburn* Workhouse, from the 12th February 1836 to the 21st January 1837.

		Breakfast.		Dinner.				Supper.		
		Bread.	Gruel.	Cooked Meat.	Potatoes.	Soup.	Suet or Rice Pudding.	Bread.	Cheese or Butter.	Broth.
		oz.	*pints.*	*oz.*	*lbs.*	*pints.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*pints.*
Sunday	Men	6	1½	5	½	–	–	6	–	1½
	Women	5	1½	5	½	–	–	5	–	1½
Monday	Men	6	1½	–	–	1½	–	6	2 oz. of cheese, or 1 oz. of butter	–
	Women	5	1½	–		1½	–	5		–
Tuesday	Men	6	1½	5	½	–	–	6	–	1½
	Women	5	1½	5	½	–	–	5	–	1½
Wednesday	Men	6	1½	–	–	1½	–	6	ditto	–
	Women	5	1½	–	–	1½	–	5	ditto	–
Thursday	Men	6	1½	5	½	–	–	6	–	1½
	Women	5	1½	5	½	–	–	5	–	1½
Friday	Men	6	1½	–	–	–	14	6	ditto	–
	Women	5	1½	–	–	–	12	5	ditto	–
Saturday	Men	6	1½	–	–	1½	–	6	ditto	–
	Women	5	1½	–	–	1½	–	5	ditto	–

Old people of 60 years of age and upwards may be allowed 1 oz. of tea, 7 oz. of butter, and 8 oz. of sugar per week, in lieu of gruel for breakfast, if deemed expedient to make this change.

Children under nine years of age to be dieted at discretion; above nine to be allowed the same quantities as women.

Sick, to be dieted as directed by the medical officer.

(signed) *Will^m Cole*, Clerk.

DIETARY for Able-bodied MEN and WOMEN in the *Woburn* Workhouse, from the 21st January 1837 to the present time.

		Breakfast.		Dinner.				Supper.		
		Bread.	Gruel.	Cooked Meat.	Cooked Potatoes in their skins.	Soup.	Suet or Rice Pudding.	Bread.	Cheese or Butter.	Broth.
		oz.	*pints.*	*oz.*	*lbs.*	*pints.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*pints.*
Sunday	Men	6	1½	4	1	–	–	6	1	–
	Women	5	1½	4	1	–	–	5	1	–
Monday	Men	6	1½	–	–½	1½	–	6	1	–
	Women	5	1½	–	–½	1½	–	5	1	–
Tuesday	Men	6	1½	4	1	–	–	6	1	–
	Women	5	1½	4	1	–	–	5	1	–
Wednesday	Men	6	1½	–	–½	1½	–	6	1	–
	Women	5	1½	–	–½	1½	–	5	1	–
Thursday	Men	6	1½	4	1	–	–	6	–	1½
	Women	5	1½	4	1	–	–	5	–	1½
Friday	Men	6	1½	–	–	–	16	6	1	–
	Women	5	1½	–	–	–	14	5	1	–
Saturday	Men	6	1½	–	–½	1½	–	6	1	–
	Women	5	1½	–	–½	1½	–	5	1	–

Old people of 60 years of age and upwards may be allowed on meat-days, 2 oz. of bread in lieu of half the quantity of potatoes; and on soup-days, 4 oz. of bread, instead of potatoes, for dinner; as also the able-bodied women, when actually employed in washing.

Old people, as above, may be allowed tea in the following quantities: 1 oz. each per week to a number not exceeding seven; 7 oz. to a number exceeding seven, and not exceeding nine; 8 oz. to a number exceeding nine, and not exceeding 11; 7 oz. of butter and 8 oz. of sugar each per week, instead of gruel for breakfast.

Able-bodied women employed in washing may be allowed at the rate of half an oz. of tea and 3 oz. of sugar each, for every three days actually so employed, in lieu of gruel for breakfast, if so desired.

Children under nine years of age to be dieted at discretion; above nine, to be allowed the same quantities as women.

Sick, to be dieted as directed by the medical officer.

January 31, 1838. (signed) *William Cole*, Clerk.

BEDFORD UNION.

Sir, Bedford, February 17, 1838.

The Return ordered by the Committee of the House of Commons, from this Union, was completed yesterday, and forwarded this morning to you.

By this post I send you the Dietary of the Workhouse, ordered by the same Committee.

No time has been lost in preparing the Return, and I cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing my thanks for the great assistance rendered to me by Messrs. Pillin and Purdy, of whose attention and perseverance I cannot speak in too high terms.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(signed) *Sam[l] Wing*,
Clerk of the Union.

E. Chadwick, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

A RETURN of the Number of Workhouses in the Union of *Bedford*, in what Parish each is situate, the Dietaries of each Workhouse, the Classification practised in each Workhouse, and stating whether any, and, if any, what, alterations have been made in the Dietary and Classification since the formation of the Unions, and the reason for such, if any, alteration, pursuant to an Order of the Select Committee on the Administration of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Number.	Names of Parishes in which the Workhouses are situate.	Dietary of each Workhouse.	Alteration in Dietary of each Workhouse (if any).	Reasons for alteration of Dietary.	Classification in Workhouse.	Alteration in Classification (if any).	Reasons for alteration.
1	St. Peter, Bedford	- as set forth below.	none -	- - -	- - as directed by the Poor Law Commissioners, in their Rules for the regulation of Workhouses.	none.	—

Bedford, February 17, 1838.

(signed) *Sam[l] Wing*,
Clerk of the Union.

GENERAL DIETARY.

	Breakfast.		Dinner.				Supper.		
	Bread.	Cheese or Butter.	Meat Pudding, with Vegetables.	Suet Pudding, with Vegetables.	Bread.	Cheese.	Bread.	Butter or Cheese.	
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	
Sunday - Men	6	1	16	–	–	–	6	1	Old People, Being 60 years of age and upwards. The weekly addition of 1 oz. of tea and milk, also an additional meat-pudding dinner on Thursday in each week, in lieu of bread and cheese for those whose age and infirmities it may be deemed proper and requisite.
Sunday - Women	5	–½	10	–	–	–	5	–½	
Monday - Men	6	1	–	–	7	1 one small onion.	6	1	
Monday - Women	5	–½	–	–	7	1 one small onion.	5	–½	
Tuesday - Men	6	1	–	16	–	–	6	1	
Tuesday - Women	5	–½	–	10	–	–	5	–½	
Wednesday - Men	6	1	–	–	7	1 one small onion.	6	1	Children. Bread and milk for their breakfast and supper, or gruel, when milk cannot be obtained; also such proportion of the dinner diet as may be requisite for their respective ages.
Wednesday - Women	5	–½	–	–	7	1 one small onion.	5	–½	
Thursday - Men	6	1	–	–	7	1 one small onion.	6	1	
Thursday - Women	5	–½	–	–	7	1 one small onion.	5	–½	
Friday - Men	6	1	–	16	–	–	6	1	
Friday - Women	5	–½	–	10	–	–	5	–½	
Saturday - Men	6	1	–	–	7	1 one small onion.	6	1	Sick. Whatever is ordered for them by the medical officer.
Saturday - Women	5	–½	–	–	7	1 one small onion.	5	–½	

SUSSEX.

Sir, Lewes, March 26, 1838.

In compliance with the Order of the Committee on the Poor Law Amendment Act, I beg leave to transmit herewith a Return of all the Inquests held upon the bodies of illegitimate infant children, and of children whose mothers were unknown, that have come under my jurisdiction, in the Eastern Division of the county of Sussex, and the verdicts given upon the same, from the 1st January 1830 until the present time.

I am not aware of any dead bodies of infant children on which no inquest was held.

I beg leave to notice, that the Rape of Hastings, within the Eastern Division of Sussex, is a franchise under the jurisdiction of a coroner, appointed by the lord of the honour; Mr. Thomas Charles Bellingham, of Battle, is the present coroner.

I shall be happy to furnish any other information which may be required by the Committee, and am,

Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

H. B. Mayne, Esq. *F. H. Gell.*

A RETURN of all the INQUESTS held by *Francis Harding Gell*, one of the Coroners of the County of *Sussex*, upon the Bodies of ILLEGITIMATE INFANT CHILDREN, and of CHILDREN whose Mothers were unknown within the Rapes of *Lewes* and *Pevensey*, in the Eastern Division of the said County, and also within a small part of the Rape of *Bramber*, in the Western Division of the same County, and the Verdicts given upon the same, from the 1st of January 1830 to the 25th of March 1838; both days inclusive.

No.	DATE.	SEX.	Where held.	VERDICT.	REMARKS.
	1830:				
1.	14 April 1830	Female (mother unknown) - -	Brighton - -	- - Found in a privy in Essex-place; not known whether born alive.	No marks of violence.
2	9 May 1830	Male (mother unknown) - -	Frant - -	- - Found concealed in a privy; full grown, but not known whether born alive.	No marks of violence.
	1831:				
1.	28 Mar. 1831	Male (mother unknown) - -	Brighton - -	- - Found concealed in a plantation at Patcham; full grown, but not known whether born alive.	No marks of violence.
2.	5 Sept. 1831	- - Male, the child of Alice Ashdown; (little farmer's daughter).	Waldron - -	Still-born.	
	1832:				
1.	5 July 1832	- - Female (illegitimate child of Frances Barnes, labourer's daughter).	Mayfield - -	Found concealed in a field; still-born.	
2.	27 Nov. 1832	- - Male (illegitimate child of Jane Baker, servant.	Eastbourne -	- - That the mother delivered herself on a night-stool, in the contents of which the child was accidentally suffocated.	
3.	26 Nov. 1832	Female; (mother unknown) -	Old Shoreham -	Found in a privy; still-born.	
	1833:——None.				
	1834:				
1.	21 April 1834	Female (mother unknown) -	Brighton - -	- - Found concealed in a rabbit-burrow on White Hawk Hill; wilful murder against some person or persons unknown.	
2.	24 April 1834	- - Not discoverable (mother unknown).	Brighton - -	- - Found buried in a coffin on the Downs; still-born.	
	1835:				
1.	4 Sept. 1835	- - Female (illegitimate child of Emma Chapman, single woman, servant).	Brighton - -	- - Found in the privy of the Cavendish Arms, but whether born alive or not, unknown.	- - Emma Chapman was afterwards tried for concealing the birth, and acquitted.
2.	12 Sept. 1835	- - Female; aged one month (illegitimate child of Leah Wilkens, single woman, labourer's daughter).	Rotherfield -	Natural death from convulsions.	
3.	5 Oct. 1835	Female (mother unknown) - -	Brighton - -	- - Found in the churchyard; not known whether born alive.	
4.	28 Oct. 1835	- - Male (the child of Ann Chatfield, single woman, servant).	Uckfield - -	Wilful murder by strangling - -	- - Ann Chatfield was afterwards tried and acquitted of the murder, but found guilty of concealing the birth.
	1836:				
1.	16 Jan. 1836	- - Female (illegitimate child of Frances Cornwell, single woman).	Brighton - -	- - Found in a privy; not discoverable whether born alive or not; no marks of violence.	
2.	25 Feb. 1836	- - Male (illegitimate child of Zilpah Wickens, labourer's daughter).	Fletching - -	Died of congenital umbilical hernia. -	
3.	29 Nov. 1836	- - Male (illegitimate child of Ann Attrell, single woman, servant).	Uckfield - -	- - Concealed in a slop-pail; not known whether born alive or not.	- - This party was not prosecuted, as no person would undertake the prosecution, there being then no provision for the expense of doing so.
	1837:				
1.	4 Jan. 1837	- - Male (illegitimate child of Sarah Deacon, single woman, servant).	Brighton - -	- - Found in a water-closet; not known whether born alive.	
2.	15 Feb. 1837	- - Female (illegitimate child of Charlotte Packham, five weeks old).	Cuckfield - -	Natural death.	
3.	17 Aug. 1837	- - Male, five weeks old (illegitimate child of Lydia Reed).	Berwick - -	Natural death.	
4.	14 Oct. 1837	Female (mother unknown) - -	Urvelsfield - -	- - Found in a pond; not known whether born alive.	
	1838:				
1.	27 Jan. 1838	- - Male (illegitimate child of Mary Dowden, widow).	Brighton - -	Still-born.	
2.	16 Feb. 1838	- - Male (illegitimate child of Mary Holman, single woman, servant, out of place).	Brighton - -	- - Found in a privy; not known whether born alive.	- - This woman has since been convicted of concealing the birth.
3.	3 March 1838	- - Female (illegitimate child of Mary Shepheard, servant).	Ringmer - -	- - Found in a pond; not known whether born alive.	- - This woman has since been tried for concealing the birth, and acquitted.

NUMBER OF INQUESTS.

	Illegitimate.	Mother unknown.		Illegitimate.	Mother unknown.
1830 - - -	None.	2	1835 - - -	3	1
1831 - - -	1	1	1836 - - -	3	None.
1832 - - -	2	1	1837 - - -	3	1
1833 - - -	None.	None.	1838 - - -	3	—
1834 - - -	None.	2		15	8

F. Harding Gell.
A Coroner of Sussex.

A RETURN of all the INQUESTS held upon the bodies of ILLEGITIMATE INFANT CHILDREN within the Rape of *Hastings*, &c in the County of Sussex, from the 1st day of January 1830 to the 23d day of March 1838.

When taken.	ON WHOM.	VERDICT.
1832: March 22	A female bastard child at Northiam	Visitation of God.
1836: July 23	A female infant unknown, at Hastings	Found dead.
1838: February 22	A new-born female child found dead in Hucksteep Wood, in Mountfield	Ditto.
March 9	A new-born male bastard child at Bexhill	Not known whether born alive or not.

There have been no cases where the dead bodies of infant children have come under my notice, but no inquest held thereon.

Battel, 2 April 1838. Coroner.

RETURN of an INQUEST holden on the Body of an ILLEGITIMATE INFANT CHILD within the Jurisdiction of the ancient Town of *Winchelsea*, and the Liberties thereof, in the Eastern Division of the County of *Sussex*.

NAME.	DATE.	VERDICT.
Elizabeth Pope Southerden	24 June 1834	That they (the jury) believe the said Elizabeth Pope Southerden accidentally fell into a certain well at Camber, in the parish of Winchelsea, and was drowned in the waters thereof, and by that means came to her death.

N.B.—No other inquest has been holden on the body of illegimate children from the 1st of January 1830 to the present time.

In reply to a note requesting, by desire of the Poor Law Committee, that "I will also procure, as far as practicable, a return of those cases where the dead bodies of infant children have come under my notice, but no inquest held thereon, and state in which of those cases I have reason to believe that such children were illegitimate," I beg to observe, that, being a surgeon, dead bodies of infant children frequently come under my notice, but I never make a practice of inquiring whether they are illegitimate or not, and therefore I can afford no information on that point.

April 1838. *John Beaumont*, Coroner of Winchelsea.

DURHAM.

IN answer to Orders made by the Committee for "Returns of all the Inquests held upon the bodies of illegitimate Infant Children in the County of Durham, and in the Eastern Division of the County of Sussex, and the Verdicts given upon the same, from the 1st of January 1830 to the present time, specifying the dates of such Inquests, and of the cases (if any) where the dead bodies of Infant Children have been brought under the notice of the Coroner, but no Inquest held thereon," the following answers have been received.

A RETURN of all the INQUESTS held upon the Bodies of ILLEGITIMATE INFANT CHILDREN in the County of *Durham*, and the Verdicts given upon the same, from the 1st of January 1830 to the present time, specifying the Dates of such Inquests; also, a RETURN of the Cases where the DEAD BODIES of INFANT CHILDREN have been brought under the Notice of the Coroner, but no Inquest held thereon; made from the Returns transmitted to me by the several Coroners of the County.

By whom Inquests held.	Dates of Inquests.	On what Bodies Inquests held, and where; or where Bodies found.	VERDICTS.	Dead Bodies of Infant Children brought under Notice of Coroner, but no Inquest held thereon.
Mr. Michael Hall, coroner for Chester ward.	12 May 1830	New-born male, found on the banks of the Wansbeck, parish of Bedlington.	Found dead.	—
Ditto	1 Oct. 1830	New-born female, found in a dunghill at Brinkburn House, township of South Shields.	Found dead.	—
Ditto	13 Aug. 1832	New-born female, found in Ash Midden, at Hedworth, parish of Jarrow.	(a) Wilful murder against the mother.	—
Ditto	8 June 1833	New-born female, found buried in a garden at Stella, parish of Ryton.	(b) Found dead.	—
Ditto	11 June 1833	New-born male, found in a drawer in a house, parish of Gateshead.	(b) Found dead.	—
Ditto	10 Sept. 1833	New-born female, found in a house, township of South Shields.	Born dead.	—

(a) The mother was afterwards tried.
(b) The mother was prosecuted for the concealment.

A RETURN of all the Inquests held upon the Bodies of Illegitimate Infant Children in the County of *Durham—continued.*

By whom Inquests held.	Dates of Inquests.	On what Bodies Inquests held, and where; or where Bodies found.	VERDICTS.	Dead Bodies of Infant Children brought under Notice of the Coroner, but no Inquest held thereon.
Mr. Michael Hall, coroner for Chester Ward.	27 March 1834	- - New-born female, found in an empty room at Swalwell, parish of Wickham.	(c) Found dead.	—
Ditto - -	4 Aug. 1834	- - New-born male, found in a yard, parish of Gateshead.	(b) Found dead.	—
Ditto - -	22 Dec. 1835	- - New-born male, found in the river Wear, parish of Monkwearmouth.	Found drowned.	—
Ditto - -	25 March 1836	- - New-born male, found in the churchyard, parish of Gateshead.	Found dead.	—
Ditto - -	5 April 1836	- - New-born female, found on the edge of Jarrow Slake, parish of Jarrow.	Found dead.	—
Ditto - -	2 June 1836	- - New-born male, at Bladon, parish of Ryton.	(d) Found dead.	—
Ditto - -	19 Sept. 1836	- - New-born male, found in a pail or tub at Jelling, parish of Heworth.	Found dead.	—
Ditto - -	19 Oct. 1836	- - New-born male, found in a pit at Ravensworth colliery, parish of Lamesley.	Found dead.	—
Ditto - -	7 Nov. 1836	- - New-born male, found in a garret at South Shields.	(b) Found dead.	—
Ditto - -	19 Dec. 1836	- - New-born female, found in a dwelling-house at Hebburn, parish of Jarrow.	(b) Found dead.	—
Ditto - -	7 April 1837	- - New-born female, found in Ash Midden, township of South Shields.	(b) Found dead.	—
Ditto - -	- March 1838	- - Infant male, at the workhouse in Framwellgate, in or near the city of Durham.	- - (e) Wilful murder against the mother.	—
Mr. Thomas Christopher Maynard, coroner for Easington Ward.	13 March 1832	New-born female, Bishopwearmouth	- - Whether the child born alive or not, jurors could not say, but that Mary Borrow, the mother, did, by throwing it down a privy, endeavour to conceal its birth.	—
Ditto - -	23 Feb. 1835	- - New-born male, Saint Nicholas, in the city of Durham.	- - Found dead in a garden in the said parish; that there were no marks of violence upon the body; but of whose body brought forth, or how he came to his death, jurors could not say.	—
Ditto - -	8 June 1837	- - New-born female, Saint Giles, in or near the city of Durham.	- - Found dead by a road side in the said parish; but from whose body brought forth, or whether born alive or not, jurors could not say.	—
Ditto - -	14 Aug. 1837	New-born female, Bishopwearmouth	- - Found dead on the bed of the river Wear, below high-water mark; no marks of violence; born alive; but from whose body brought forth, or by what means it came to its death, jurors could not say.	—
Mr. William Trotter, coroner for Darlington Ward.	30 March 1832	Male child, Witton-le-Wear -	- - Bridget Cowen, the mother, guilty of concealing the birth.	—
Ditto - -	16 Sept. 1832	Female child, Blackwell - -	Found drowned.	
Ditto - -	9 April 1836	Female child, Windlestone - -	- - Ann Charlton, the mother, guilty of concealing the birth.	—
Ditto - -	8 Sept. 1837	Male infant child, Wolsingham -	- - Mother guilty of concealing the birth.	—
Mr. Thomas Henry Faber, (f) coroner for Stockton Ward.	21 May 1835	- - - - - - -	(g)	

(c) The mother was taken before the magistrates for the concealment, but was not committed.
(d) The mother was suffered by the parish officers to go about her business, without punishment.
(b) The mother was prosecuted for the concealment.
(e) The mother committed for trial at the next assizes.
(f) Mr. Faber's return is from the 6th December 1831, the date of his appointment.
(g) The medical gentleman examined on this inquest, stated, that the body was an abortion, and never had life, and no verdict was returned by the jury; the police being directed to discover, if possible, the mother, but which discovery has never been made.

3 April 1838.

John Dunn,
Deputy Clerk of the Peace for the County of Durham.

Sir, Borough of Rye, March 26, 1838.

In obedience to the order of "The Select Committee on the Poor Law Amendment Act," dated the 23d of March instant, "that there be laid before this Committee a Return of all the inquests held upon the bodies of illegitimate infant children, &c.," I beg to state that I have had occasion to hold only one inquest since I have officiated as coroner in this borough, and that inquest was upon the body of a married woman who was accidentally driven over. I am not aware of any such cases of premature deaths of children, as require an inquest to be holden upon their bodies, having occurred during the time of my coronership for this borough.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
Your most obedient and humble Servant,
David Manser,
Coroner for the Borough of Rye.

Sir, Hastings, March 24, 1838.

In reply to yours of the 23d instant, requesting a Return of all the inquests held upon the bodies of illegitimate infant children that have come under my jurisdiction within the Borough of Hastings, &c., from the 1st January 1830 to the present time; and also, a return of those cases where dead bodies of infant children have come under my notice, but no inquests have been held thereon, &c., I beg to return as in the margin. Nil.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient and humble Servant,
John G. Shorter,
Coroner.

The Chairman of the Select Committee
on the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Sir, Battle, March 26, 1838.

In answer to your letter of the 23d instant, and the order of the "Select Committee on the Poor Law Amendment Act," which accompanied the same, desiring a "Return of those cases where the dead bodies of infant children have come under my notice, but no inquest held thereon;" and also a "Return of all the inquests held upon the bodies of illegitimate infant children that have come under my jurisdiction, in the Eastern Division of the county of Sussex, and the verdicts given upon the same, from the 1st of January 1830 to the present time," I beg to inform you that no such dead bodies have come under my notice, nor have any such inquests been held during the above period, in the Hundred of Robertsbridge.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
Ja^s Martin,
Coroner for the Hundred of Robertsbridge.

To H. B. Mayne, Esq.

Town and Port of *Seaford,* in the County of *Sussex.*

A RETURN of all the Inquests held upon the bodies of Illegitimate Infant Children and of Infant Children whose Mothers were unknown, that have come under the jurisdiction of the Bailiff for the time being as Coroner of the said Town and Port, and the Verdicts given upon the same, from the 1st of January 1830 to the present time.

No Inquest has been held upon the body of any illegitimate infant child in the town and port of Seaford within the above-mentioned periods.

No cases of dead bodies of infant children have come under the notice of the Coroner for the said town and port within the same periods.

Fr. Harding Gell.
Town Clerk of the said Town and Port.

Lewes, 27 March 1838.

Sir, Pevensey, 5th April 1838.

In pursuance of the Order of the Select Committee on the Poor Law Amendment Act, I have the honour to state, that there has not been within the Liberty of Pevensey any inquest held upon the body of an infant child, either legitimate or illegitimate, between the 1st January 1830 and the present time.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Geo. Whiteman,

Town Clerk for the Coroner of the Liberty of Pevensey.

To H. B. Mayne, Esq. Committee Clerks' Office,
House of Commons.

TWENTIETH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
27 *March* 1838.

246.

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TWENTY-FIRST

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
28 *March* 1838.

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Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

28 *March* 1838.

WITNESS.

The Reverend *George Stringer Bull.*

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Mercurii, 28° *die Martii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Hodges.
Mr. Barneby.	Lord Howick.
Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt.	Mr. Scrope.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend *George Stringer Bull*, called in; and Examined.

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6193. Mr. *Fielden.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Bradford, in Yorkshire.

6194. You are a clergyman of the Church of England?—I am.

6195. Have you resided at Bradford, or in the neighbourhood, for several years?—I have resided in the now borough of Bradford since October 1826.

6196. Your residence at Bradford has given you an opportunity of knowing what the feelings of the people are there generally relative to the new Poor Law, has it not?—It has.

6197. What are the feelings of the people generally in Bradford and the surrounding towns as to this Poor Law Amendment Act?—Feelings of very great aversion.

6198. Are they opposed to the principle as well as to the machinery for the working out of the Act?—To both.

6199. Have you the same objections to the Act both to its principle and to its machinery?—Entirely so.

6200. Have you taken a part in stating at public meetings your objections to the new Poor Law?—Very frequently.

6201. Have you met large assemblages of people at different times, and had an opportunity of seeing what the feelings of the people were on that subject?—I have.

6202. Have you had several meetings in the town of Bradford?—Several.

6203. At which meetings a strong manifestation of opposition to the introduction of the new Poor Law has been made?—Yes, certainly.

6204. Is the law now put into operation in Bradford?—Only partially, I believe; but I am not prepared to say how far it may be put into operation, having no necessary connexion with the board of guardians, or the persons who are the agents of the Poor Law Commissioners in that matter.

6205. Do you know whether the authorities of the town were opposed to the Poor Law Act, and have expressed themselves strongly on that subject?—I do.

6206. Can you refer to any speech or any expression of disapproval of it made on the occasion at public meetings?—I can refer to a speech of Mr. Matthew Thompson, one of our magistrates, at a public meeting which I attended with him.

6207. What did Mr. Thompson say on that occasion, as far as your recollection serves you?—The only part of the Poor Law which he appeared to approve of on that occasion was that which regarded the settlement; and with regard to all the rest of the Act, he expressed his general and very decided disapprobation.

6208. Do you know whether Mr. Thompson is of the same opinion still?—I understand that he is.

6209. Did he not at the meeting in November last express himself in a manner that led to the conviction that his mind had undergone some change on that subject?—It was so represented by the local paper, and by some other papers, but it was afterwards contradicted by him in a letter which I saw in the Leeds Mercury.

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6210. What are the objections that you have to the principle of the Act?—My objections to the principle of the Act are very numerous. I chiefly object to the principle, on the ground of its being, in my estimation, altogether unjust; regarding that principle, to be a deprivation of comfort and assistance to the poor in time of need.

6211. Do you approve of the workhouse system proposed to be established under the operation of the Act?—I entirely disapprove of it; more especially to that part of its operation which allows of the separation of the man from his wife, without any fault or crime having been committed by them to justify that separation.

6212. Do you consider that the separation of man and wife in the workhouse is opposed to those principles which you teach in the pulpit?—Most decidedly so; I cannot conceive with what propriety I can perform the marriage ceremony in the Church of England, wherein I challenge the whole world to separate a man from his wife, and yet give my sanction to a law which provides, by means of the regulations of the Commissioners, for that separation; I regard it in a very serious religious and official light.

6213. Do you disapprove of the workhouse being the only test of destitution for able-bodied men?—I do; I have no objection whatever to the test of work or employment for able-bodied men, but I do altogether protest against the test of confinement and deprivation of liberty,

6214. Have you good reasons for thinking, from the manner in which the working people of Bradford have conducted themselves, that they are deserving of such treatment, in consequence of being overtaken with poverty?—With regard to the conduct of the working people of Bradford, and their being deserving of the character of a peaceable and industrious community, I think I need only state the fact, that in an immense population, consisting, I believe, of nearly 30,000 in the town, to say nothing of the surrounding neighbourhood, we have not found it necessary, during the 12 years that I have resided there, to have a larger police establishment than, I think, five or six; nor during the whole of that period, until within the period of the introduction, or the attempted introduction, of this law, has the foot of a soldier ever been set in that borough, in a hostile manner, excepting I believe on one occasion, which I am not quite certain whether it be within the compass of that 12 years or not, when a riot ensued regarding a power-loom factory, that of Mr. Horsfall; but I am almost certain, that within the period of 12 years there has been no riot, no disturbance, no magistrate insulted, no constable impeded in the execution of his duty, and no necessity whatever for a stronger police force than five or six persons, and I do apprehend that that fact itself will justify me in reporting the community of Bradford to this Committee as a peaceable, loyal and industrious community.

6215. Have you, in consequence of the difficulties said to exist in the introduction of the new Poor Law at Bradford, been interfered with by force from a distant quarter?—We have.

6216. Have you read the correspondence that has been published between the authorities of Bradford, Mr. Power, and the Home Secretary?—I have.

6217. Is there any part of that correspondence that you wish to refer to?—I was not particularly wishing to refer to that correspondence; but there is one part of it which strikes me as being declaratory of a most objectionable proceeding, namely, that a police force was sent down to Bradford, it would seem at the express wish of Mr. Power, *in plain clothes*, which I conceive is not at all according to the general tenor of the administration of the laws, inasmuch as the officers of justice are generally supposed to be known to the people, and inasmuch as the sending a police force into any part of the kingdom, *in plain clothes*, or in other words, in disguise, is establishing the principle of a spy system, if I may so speak, which I conceive to be highly unconstitutional.

6218. Was a discovery made, soon after those men entered the town, that there were some foreigners in it?—It was generally reported that the London police were in the town.

6219. Did that increase the dissatisfaction that before prevailed upon the attempt to introduce the new Poor Law?—I should say very considerably.

6220. Was that force afterwards followed by a military force from Leeds?—It was.

6221. Did you think at the time, as a resident in Bradford, that there was any necessity whatever for the London police, or for the military, to preserve the peace of the town of Bradford?—I have no reason to think that either the one or the other

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other were at all required; and I would observe, that the usual practice resorted to, and the constitutional practice resorted to, in general cases, of obtaining special constables when any outbreak is expected, was not adopted in this case. I conceive that under such circumstances those who are acquainted with their neighbours, and who know a great number of the most numerous class of the people, are the most proper persons to preserve the peace, and their interference is most likely to be respected, and to be effectual.

6222. Do you believe that if a number of special constables had been sworn in at the meeting when the disturbance took place, the populace would have been quieted without the interference of any foreign force?—I have every reason to think so.

6223. *Chairman.*] In what sense do you use the word foreign?—I understood Mr. Fielden to refer to the introduction of the London police.

6224. Mr. *Fielden.*] Does the same impression generally prevail, that the peace of the town might have been preserved without having recourse to either the police from London or the military from Leeds, had steps been taken by the magistrates to appoint special constables?—If the Chairman would allow me. I would wish to make some addition to the previous answer in respect of the foreign force. I apprehend that the term has been used in Yorkshire and Lancashire, from the idea that it is a partial adoption of the French system of police.

6225. *Chairman.*] Under a general objection to the existence of any police force?—No, we do not object to the existence of our regular police force.

6226. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have said that the number of constables you have in the town of Bradford does not amount to more than five or six; that is the number that has been found sufficient to preserve the peace of the town for a great many years?—For 10 or 12 years.

6227. With the exception of one riot respecting a power-loom?—Yes, which occurrence, I believe, took place previous to the period to which I refer.

6228. Is it the opinion of the people of Bradford, and is it your opinion, that the rate-payers in that town are capable of managing their own parochial affairs?—As far as I know the opinion of the people of Bradford, that is the opinion I should say of eight or nine-tenths of all the rate-payers, and they conceive that taking their own affairs out of their own hands, without any proof of imbecility or mal-appropriation on their part, is in fact an act of injustice towards them, and a deprivation of those rights which they have enjoyed of dispensing the fund raised from their own resources.

6229. Has the management of the township's affairs in Bradford relative to the relief of the poor been generally satisfactory both to the rate-payers and to the poor of that township?—I believe it has; I know of no instances in which any public complaints have been made in any way.

6230. How was the management of parochial affairs conducted, with regard to the relief of the poor in Bradford, before the introduction of the new law?—I believe the overseers were assisted by a committee; but I cannot positively speak in respect to the exact machinery by which it was previously conducted, not having been long resident in the town of Bradford itself.

6231. What was the distance at which you lived from Bradford before you came into the town to reside?—About a mile and a half.

6232. You were so near to the township of Bradford, that had any complaints existed, they would at once have been made known to you; is that your opinion?—I think I should have known them.

6233. Have the orders that have been sent down from the Commissioners at Somerset-house, upon the introduction of the new law, been unsatisfactory to the poor?—Most decidedly so.

6234. What were the grounds of dissatisfaction that they expressed?—Those grounds were many, and as it might be inconvenient to the Committee that I should refer to them all, I will allude more especially to those parts which I have heard have given very great dissatisfaction, and especially to the workhouse system established by the order of the Poor Law Commissioners, and the conditions of relief. The conditions of relief to the poor are particularly given by the Commissioners in Appendix (A.) to their Third Report, which is an instructional letter addressed to various boards of guardians on their formation, and we considered that we might fairly gather from this document the actual intentions of the Commissioners, and the manner in which they purpose to work this Act of Parliament. In No. 66 of that document, under the head of "Preparatory Relief," we are told that "Where relief is demanded, and has been accustomed to be given, on account

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of the number of the family, should it be inexpedient to stop it suddenly and altogether, relief in the workhouse may be offered to one or two of the eldest children." Now, we conceive that a man who orders his family well, and who, as a working man, conducts himself respectably, and who entertains as great an attachment and fondness for his children as the richest man in the land, would feel exceedingly excruciated to be obliged to part with two of his eldest children, as a condition of his receiving relief in the time of need. But the next paragraph, No. 67, proceeds to state, that "Where the pauper is the head of a family, and he declares that he has no work, and proves satisfactorily that he can obtain none either in his own or in any of the parishes within a reasonable distance, he may be offered temporary relief within the workhouse, until he can get some kind of work; relief wholly or chiefly in kind being given in the interval to the family, to prevent the necessity of immediately selling off their goods, and breaking up the cottage establishment." Now, we conceived that this was also a still harder condition, that a well-ordered cottager's family should be deprived in this manner not only of its oldest children, but of its head, of its protector; nor can we conceive upon what principles such a regulation can be justified. But it is further stated here, "The pauper should be distinctly told that such an arrangement can only be temporary, in order that his wife and family may seek work for him." We think that a man is much better able to seek work for himself, than his wife and family are thus to seek it for him. And it further proceeds to say, "The strict workhouse principle requires that all the members of a family claiming relief should enter the house" (that is, I suppose, what is called the workhouse) "and give up their property for the benefit of the parish." This breaking up of the cottage establishment must necessarily, I should think, tend to demoralize the people, inasmuch as the man will become reckless whether he has property or not, if it is to be dealt with in this manner. I conceive that this which I have just now read from the Commissioners' instructional letter to the guardians will constitute, to a very great extent, a principal objection that is entertained towards the new Poor Law in that part of the country where I reside.

6235. That objection is to the being placed under the control of a central board in London, and being divested of that management of your own parochial affairs which you have hitherto exercised?—My objection, I can best answer for myself, not only lies against the manner in which the Poor Law Commissioners exercise the authority which the Act of Parliament has given them, but my objection is to the principle of giving any such authority to any such persons, as I have already stated, when speaking of the deprivation of the rate-payers of their ancient right to dispense their own funds.

6236. When the people were assembled at the meetings which you have attended, did they express their strong dislike of the workhouse system, and the dread that they had of coming into it?—Certainly they did, more especially upon the occasion referred to previously, when Mr. Thompson, one of our magistrates, exhibited to a meeting, and a very numerous one, which I attended with him and with Mr. Paley, another of our magistrates, some of the plans and elevations of the workhouses which had been received from the Poor Law Commissioners; on that occasion, very great detestation was expressed of the system altogether, especially upon the explanations which Mr. Thompson then gave of the plans which he exhibited.

6237. Do you know that the orders already sent down by the Commissioners to the guardians of Bradford do not go to the establishment of the workhouse in that town, but give a discretionary power to the guardians to give out-door relief?—So I have understood; but never having seen those regulations, I cannot speak to the fact.

6238. Were any expressions made use of at the meetings which you attended, and questions put to those who spoke in favour of the Act, that the inhabitants of Bradford would be liable to be interfered with after they had once adopted the system, and that the workhouse system would be worked out?—If I understand the question proposed to me, it is this in substance, whether the people of Bradford were apprehensive that if the system was once introduced, however leniently at first, it would be in the contemplation of the Poor Law Commissioners eventually to carry the full system out.

6239. *Chairman.*] What do you understand by the full system?—I mean rendering the workhouse the universal test of relief for able-bodied persons.

6240. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is it the dread of having that carried out, that creates so strong a feeling against the new Poor Law in the north?—I believe it is.

6241. Mr.

6241. Mr. *Baines.*] Are there not other causes besides that, which create that strong feeling?—There may be.

6242. Amongst the rest, had there not been a very great deal of pains taken to excite the people of those districts against the Poor Law, before it was introduced at all?—The people of those districts wanted no exciting on the subject.

6243. I do not ask whether they wanted it, but is not that so?—There have been great pains taken, and I have taken great pains to explain to the people what I conceive to be the real character and tendency of the law; and I have no doubt that those statements and those representations have tended to excite them against that law, nor have I any hesitation in saying, that I feel it my duty to excite any one to a legal and constitutional opposition to a law, which I conceive to be founded in opposition to the principles of justice and Christianity.

6244. But have there not been a great many means taken that are neither legal nor constitutional to excite the people?—I have not used such means myself, nor do I know of any that have used such means.

6245. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have the inhabitants of Bradford, and other towns in the north, who disapprove of this Poor Law, repeatedly petitioned the House of Commons for the repeal of it?—Repeatedly.

6246. Have they not again and again sent up petitions very numerously signed for the purpose of making known what their objections were to this new Poor Law?—They have.

6247. And they have stated at length in the allegations all those objections?—They have.

6248. Was there a very numerous meeting held at Hartshead Moor, or Peep Green, last Whitsuntide?—There was.

6249. Was that meeting called by a requisition numerously signed, or in what manner was it called?—It was called by a requisition, most numerously signed, to the Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding.

6250. Did persons of all political parties sign the requisition for that meeting?—I believe of all political parties, and of all religious denominations.

6251. Did the requesters represent a great proportion of the property of the neighbourhood where they resided?—As far as I am acquainted with their names, I believe they did.

6252. And was that meeting convened for the express purpose of getting up a petition to the Legislature praying for a repeal of the new Act?—It was.

6253. At that meeting were resolutions passed, and was a petition founded on them, which was sent up to Parliament for presentation?—Yes.

6254. Were there some individuals who attended that meeting, of whose conduct you disapproved, who attempted as a diversion to mix up with the question of the repeal of the Poor Law subjects altogether foreign to it?—There were; there were some persons of strong radical politics, as they are called, who were desirous to introduce the question of universal suffrage and other matters at that meeting, to which, of course, I must altogether object, not only on account of my utter dissent from such views, but also because I deem it unfair altogether to those persons who convene a meeting, or who request a meeting to be convened, that any other subject should be introduced at that meeting; nor was I at all disposed to lend myself to the promulgation of principles which I have always thought, and still do think, are inconsistent with the good of the community, and opposed to the institutions of the country.

6255. Then your opposition to the new Poor Law does not arise from your conviction of the necessity of universal suffrage, annual parliaments, and vote by ballot?—It does not; but I shall leave it to persons better versed in politics than myself to decide how those demands can safely be refused, if the constitution of the country as now established does not provide sufficiently and amply for the protection and maintenance of the poor; for if the present representation proceeds upon the ground that a certain part of the community being enfranchised are bound to take care of the rest, if they do not perform their duty there will be undoubtedly a cry from the whole body to have the privilege of taking care of themselves, nor can I conceive that the present constitution of the country can be maintained in connexion with the present Poor Law Act; and I would add, if I may be allowed, that a certain number of persons, with whose character I am pretty well acquainted, in my own neighbourhood, and who are most "conscientious" revolutionists in principle, have been amongst the most ardent supporters of the present law, for what purpose and with what ends I do not presume to define.

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6256. Do you believe that those people know that the present Poor Law is working very unsatisfactorily and creating great discontent among the people?—I have no doubt of the fact, and I regret that effect the more, because I have always been, and still am, most sincerely attached to the institutions of the country as they at present exist, and to the constitution which has been established, but which, in my opinion, has been exceedingly abused, so far as the present Poor Law Act is concerned.

6257. Did you attend the meeting on Hartshead Moor?—I did, but I took no part in the proceedings.

6258. What was the reason why you did not take a part in the proceedings, having previously taken part in calling that meeting?—The reason was not any diminution of dislike to the Poor Law Act on my part; but because I did not choose to be mixed up with persons who appeared to me, by the promulgation of certain strong political sentiments, to be promoting views unfavourable to the permanency of the constitution of the country, and to the general good.

6259. Do you know that at that meeting the proceedings were confined, in the first instance, to passing resolutions on which to found a petition for the repeal of the Poor Law Act?—I know that; but I told the persons who wished to introduce a subject or subjects foreign to the purpose and intention of that meeting, that the supporters of the Poor Law Act would undoubtedly endeavour, and I believed would succeed, in weakening the effect of that meeting as a public demonstration, by stating that many persons had come there only for the purpose of promoting the extreme views of the parties to whom I now refer.

6260. After the Poor Law question had been disposed of, was another chairman appointed, and were resolutions of a different character passed?—I left the ground, having an engagement at home, before (as I understood) that circumstance took place; I heard of the circumstance, but I was not present to witness it.

6261. Was the meeting very numerously attended?—I believe there never was a meeting so numerously attended in the county of York, and I say this from the information I received from persons of all parties who have been accustomed to take an interest in the general political affairs of that large county.

6262. Can you give any estimate of the number, from your own view, of the meeting at the time you attended it?—I went over the whole ground, which was very extensive, during the meeting, and I should certainly say, from the best calculation I can make, though it is exceedingly difficult to come to any very correct calculation, that there could not be less than from 150,000 to 200,000 persons present.

6263. Were there a great many very respectable gentlemen at the meeting resident in the West Riding of the county of York?—I saw several whom I personally knew from many different parts of the riding.

6264. And have you reason to believe that those gentlemen who assembled there on that occasion felt the same hostile feelings towards the new Poor Law which you entertain yourself?—I have no doubt of it.

6265. Have a number of families migrated from the south from the agricultural districts to the northern districts, and amongst other towns have some taken up their residence in Bradford?—A large number; some of them have been sent by the migration agents of the Poor Law Commissioners, and others of them have come of their own accord, upon the strong recommendations and representations of the guardians or residents in their own parishes; I know of my own knowledge that this is the case, because during the last two months, or during the month of January and February, for seven or eight weeks, I was entrusted by a committee of benevolent persons in Bradford with the administration of relief to a very considerable class of persons in distress, principally so on account of the long frost that has been suffered in that part of the country, and during that time I should think (I speak, however, from memory and not from documents, for I have brought no documents with me on this occasion) that not less than upwards of 3,000 cases of persons in more or less distress passed under my own observation and investigation, and amongst those 3,000 cases there were a very considerable number of the class of migrants or immigrants from the rural and agricultural districts, and from the most distant parts of the kingdom, from Devonshire, from Norfolk, and from the north.

6266. Was there a scarcity of employment in Bradford during any part of the last year?—There was, and I was also considerably engaged in the relief of the poor upon that occasion, having had an extensive district confided to my charge by the general relief committee, and having also undertaken at their request

request a rather difficult part of that relief, which was the providing of work as the test of destitution to able-bodied persons, a test which I most heartily approve.

6267. Did you succeed in finding work for some who were out of employment on that occasion?—We sometimes had as many as 150 persons, chiefly labourers, employed, and certainly the test of their destitution was rigorous enough; it however arose from our having but small funds to supply a very large body of destitute persons; they worked at cleaning out the beck of the town for the sum of 1*s.* per day, and they were very glad to obtain that work.

6268. At what employment had those who were then suffering from distress been engaged?—At various employments; many, perhaps most, were labourers, some were weavers, some were combers, dyers, tailors, shoemakers, &c.

6269. Are there a considerable number of hand-loom weavers in Bradford and the surrounding country?—A very large number.

6270. Have they been long working at very inadequate wages?—Many of them, most of them, have been experiencing very considerable reductions in their wages for several years past; I would say, whilst speaking upon that subject, that some of them applied to me a short time ago for my advice respecting a commission, which they understood had been issued, to examine into their circumstances; and the advice which I gave them was that they should make the most accurate and impartial investigations, and the most extensive, into the condition of that class of operatives to which they belonged, and that they should give the Commissioners every possible information upon the subject, and I believe they have prepared themselves to do so; and I must say, that the hand-loom weavers are, as far as I know them, by far the most moral and respectable portion of our community, and I am therefore the more sorry to see their circumstances thus deteriorating; I fear it will have a very immoral tendency.

6271. Was there any necessity for drawing on the agricultural population for a supply of hands for the works that are going on at Bradford?—I should say, not any whatever. In explanation, I would add, that although the new works (factories) at Bradford occasioned a considerable demand for hands, yet that demand, in my opinion, was not greater than might have been supplied by the contiguous families of manufacturers whom the power-looms and other machinery had superseded and thrown out of employment, and that no "migration agency" was required, at least none such as I conceive to be a *forcing* system of migration; I give no opinion against a *natural* or spontaneous migration of such as think they can better themselves.

6272. Would the introduction of a number of families from the rural districts into the manufacturing districts operate to reduce the wages of those residing in the manufacturing districts?—There can be no doubt but that such must be its ultimate tendency.

6273. Is not that another complaint that is urged against the practice that is adopted in working out the new Poor Law?—I would distinctly state to this Committee, that if the manufacturing districts should be altogether exempted from the operation of the Poor Law, their dissatisfaction at the Poor Law would not on that account be removed, because there would be the unnatural influx of more labourers than were required; and the market of labour being overstocked would necessarily operate in the reduction of the wages of the operatives, and not only so, but would eventually settle upon the rate-payers and holders of property a most inconvenient incubus.

6274. Would not the operation of the workhouse system, if followed out, be instrumental in reducing wages, and is not that the opinion which prevails in the north?—It is my most distinct opinion, and that of many persons with whom I have conversed upon the subject; and I am utterly at a loss to understand the arguments of those advocates for the present Poor Law Act, who, while they contend that the operation in the agricultural districts is to raise wages, seem to forget that the fear of the workhouse system will induce many an honest and able-bodied labourer, and skilful labourer, to go and beg for work at a reduced rate of wages, and to undersell his brother labourer in the market of labour. I have never seen that argument met, and as long as the fear of incarceration operates upon a human mind, and a British mind especially, I do not see how it can be met; I know what would be my own feelings in those cases; I would take half a loaf, or a quarter of a loaf, or almost nothing, rather than I would be incarcerated in the most beautiful union workhouse that ever was built.

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6275. And that is, I infer from what you have said, the feeling amongst the labouring people of the north?—Undoubtedly; and I would say, that the labouring people of the north (as honourable Members of this Committee, several of them, are perfectly aware as well as myself) are a reading people, and a thinking people, and a people who are accustomed to look a little beyond the confines of their own districts; they have been taught to do so; they have been taught to take a great interest in all political matters; and it is not likely that upon such a question as this, they should confine themselves merely to its operation in their own neighbourhood; they look at its general tendency; they have been taught to look abroad upon all questions, and of course they will look abroad upon this question.

6276. And are they not, too, an industrious people, when they can obtain employment?—They are industrious; and I am sorry to think that too frequently their industry is so little remunerated.

6277. Have you known any peculiar cases of suffering in the families of those who have migrated from the rural districts to the manufacturing districts of the north?—I have known several of my own knowledge; and referring to the distribution of relief which I was entrusted with by a committee of benevolent persons, and in which I have expended about 800*l.* under their direction, I have had occasion to relieve, at a very considerable charge to that charitable fund, several very distressing cases of immigrants from the agricultural districts, and persons, as far as can be judged, of good character, who had come in in the most destitute condition; and in fact, I may say, that for two months I certainly deserved as much as any body the name of the relieving officer of that district; what the Poor Law relieving officer was doing, I am sure I cannot say.

6278. Mr. *Wakley.*] Will you describe two or three of those cases?—I decline, with the permission of the Committee, giving those cases more than generally, as I have not the statistical information with me.

6279. Will you describe two or three of those cases generally, and state under what circumstances they had been induced to leave their native places?—They informed me, and I have no reason to doubt their information, that they had come from different parts of the agricultural districts, with the hope of obtaining work, and that they had been induced to do so, in most cases, but not in all, from the fear of being obliged to submit to the much-lauded workhouse test, and I would say with regard to one particular family, or rather to one tenement in which there were two families, out of Norfolk, and which has been visited with the small-pox during the seven or eight weeks to which I have referred; that those families appeared to me to be particularly respectable; and with regard to the affliction which they endured, the surgeon, who was employed by our Committee to attend upon them, assured me, that in his most deliberate judgment, that the disease for which he had visited them had been superinduced by long privation of food for a considerable length of time; when I say superinduced, I mean as an effect of the weakness of their physical powers, in consequence of their deprivation of food.

6280. *Chairman.*] Was that want of food, of which those parties complained, experienced since they had been in the north of England?—Both before and since.

6281. From what part of England did they come?—From Norfolk.

6282. From what parish?—I have already stated, in a former answer, that till I could give statistics to this Committee, I would rather not give any particulars; and that I am not prepared, not having come up with any expectation that I should be examined before this Committee, with the documents. Had I known that I was likely to be examined before this Committee, I would have been prepared with statistical documents and references, to the utmost extent that could be required.

6283. Do you know from what union they came?—I am not certain; whether from the Thetford or not, I cannot tell.

6284. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do you know, besides those cases, any other cases from Norfolk and Suffolk?—I know several cases.

6285. Mr. *Walker.*] Were those cases introduced through the migration agent?—I am not aware whether that was the case or not, in regard to the particular family that I have just mentioned.

6286. Mr. *Liddell.*] You have it in your power, supposing you had access to your documents and papers, to verify your statement, and give the names of parties, and the places from which they come?—I have it in my power to give the distinct names of the families to which I allude, and a certificate, I have no doubt, of the medical gentleman to whom I have referred.

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6287. Mr. *Hodges.*] Have you any knowledge of any large number of migrants of your neighbourhood, so as to be able to say whether, generally speaking, they are well off?—I should say that, generally speaking, they are not so; there may be individual families that have, as we say in the north, fallen upon their legs; but a very considerable number, and the majority of those that I have seen, have not been the better for the change.

6288. *Chairman.*] Those migrants whom you have seen in particular instances, or in the majority of cases, do you know whether they migrated from the south of England to the north, under the regulation of the Poor Law Commissioners, and have been introduced to work in the north under the superintendence of the migration agent, acting under the authority of the Poor Law Commissioners, or whether they were voluntary migrants, going of their own accord?—I have stated that some are of one class, and some of another.

6289. With regard to those who have migrated under the authority of the Poor Law Commissioners, and who have obtained work in the north, under the superintendence of the migration agent, do you mean to say, with reference to those, that you know of any or of numerous cases of distress?—I will supply the Committee with one particular instance of that description, from the parish of Urchfont, near Devizes; I do not now recollect the man's name, but Urchfont, near Devizes, will be sufficient to identify the man.

6290. In the Devizes Union?—Yes.

6291. What is the case of the man?—If you will allow me to draw out the case at my leisure, I can be more accurate, but I can state the general case with pleasure. The general case of that man was this, as he gave it to me, and I have reason to believe his respectability, because he had a letter, highly recommendatory, from, I think, the chairman of the board of guardians, a gentleman at Urchfont; and his children also had the highest character from a gentleman of the name of Tanner, at Devizes, for whom they had worked; I had reason, therefore, to believe that he was a respectable person, and worthy of credit; he was sent down by the migration machinery of the Poor Law Commissioners; he came with his family, consisting, I think, altogether of 12 persons, to Huddersfield, by the canal, and then came forward to Bradford, not knowing absolutely—for which I could never properly account—the name of the party to whom he was consigned.

6292. How did he find his way?—He came to Bradford from Huddersfield; he knew he had to go to Bradford, but he did not know how far Bradford was from Huddersfield.

6293. Was any body with him?—Nobody was with him; he understood that somebody was to meet him at the canal office, where he was to be unshipped.

6294. Were arrangements made for his passage by the migration agent with the boatmen of the canal?—There were.

6295. And those men were instructed to deposit the man at Huddersfield?—Yes; he expected there to meet people to inform him of his ultimate destination; he walked over to Bradford.

6296. What is the distance between the two places?—Fourteen miles.

6297. He expected to meet at Huddersfield somebody from Bradford?—Yes; he did not meet any body; he came on to Bradford, and after a very long search he found out a fellow-townsman who had come before, and from him he at last discovered the person to whom he was consigned, or the firm, which, I believe, was the firm of Messrs. Rouse & Sons.

6298. Consigned on a contract to work for them at specified wages, and for a certain time?—Yes, that is what I mean. After some time, with considerable difficulty, he obtained employment for which the stipulation had been made; but whether to the full extent of that stipulation or not, I am not now prepared to say; but this I can say, that I saw a letter from Mr. Compton, whose name I now distinctly recollect, of Urchfont, in which he complained most bitterly and feelingly of the neglect of the migration agents, and of Mr. Baker in particular, towards this family, whom he mentioned as persons of very great respectability in their station of life.

6299. What became of the man; did he obtain the employment for which he had contracted?—He obtained employment.

6300. Did he obtain it upon the terms contained in his contract?—I believe not upon the full terms, according to the representation he made to me.

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6301. Did you ask Mr. Rouse whether the representation of the man himself was correct?—I did not.

6302. You do not know, therefore, except upon the statement of one of the parties, whether it was true or false?—Yes.

6303. You have not taken any pains to inquire of Mr. Rouse?—I did not ascertain from the other party the truth of the statement; but I have reason to believe, from the representation of Mr. Compton, of the character of the party, that he was worthy of credit.

6304. Was Mr. Rouse living at Bradford?—Yes.

6305. Then would it not have been easy to ascertain from him whether the man's statement was true or not?—It was not my business to do that.

6306. If you think it right to make a public statement of a fact calculated to convey a particular impression, should you not take all reasonable means to ascertain the truth of that statement?—When I have reason to believe any person to be worthy of credit, from his respectability, I conceive that I am authorized to make any statement after such a person, referring to my authority.

6307. This was a statement involving the character of a manufacturer of the town of Bradford, because it was a statement implying that the manufacturer, having entered into a certain contract with a labouring man, had violated the conditions of his contract, and given him work upon worse terms than he had promised. Do not you think it reasonable, under such circumstances, before you made a public statement of the case, to ascertain from Mr. Rouse whether the statement made to you by the labourer was true or false?—I have already said that I had no means of ascertaining whether that statement was correct or not.

6308. Did you ask Mr. Rouse whether it was or not?—I did not.

6309. Have you any acquaintance with Mr. Rouse?—I have not.

6310. Does he live in the town of Bradford?—He does.

6311. Would it not have been easy for you to have ascertained from him the truth?—The man was under the protection of the Poor Law Commissioners; and the squire of the place, I believe, from whence he came was in correspondence with them, and it was not my business to interfere between the parties.

6312. I do not say that it was your business to interfere between the parties; but before you make a public statement affecting the character of an individual, do you not think it your duty to take all reasonable means to ascertain whether it is true or false?—I have made those statements before this Committee in answer to the questions which have been asked me, which I conceive I am not wrong in doing. If there be any thing wrong, it is in those who have asked me the questions.

6313. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did you give the man any relief out of the subscription fund?—I am not now referring to that period; it was previous to that period.

6314. In what state did you find those men at Bradford?—I understood that they were in considerable destitution; they had parted with their little goods and furniture upon their leaving, I believe, their native place, or at all events the place of their former residence, and in consequence of having to wait some short time, or some considerable time, perhaps, before they got into their employment, their funds were very much exhausted.

6315. Have you any reason to believe that many of the families who had migrated to Bradford were short of employment during the last year?—I believe several have been.

6316. Do you know whether wages were paid to them according to the contract during the time that they were so short of employment?—I believe not. But with reference to the case of the man from Urchfont, I would inform the Committee that the whole family were sent back again. The man informed me that he and his family had been very little expense at any time to the parish to which they belonged; not, I believe, more than 30*s.* during any winter, that he could recollect, though a very numerous family; but I should think that the expense of that family's removal to Bradford, his support there and removal back again, could not have cost that union less than 50*l.*

6317. Do you know the number of the family?—I believe 12, altogether.

6318. A man and his wife and 10 children?—I believe so, but I have already said that it would have been more satisfactory to me to have been able to state with greater accuracy what I have to state; and of course the Committee must not charge me with inaccuracy when I have made that reserve.

6319. Have

6319. Have you any doubt that a great many cases of hardship could be produced before this Committee if proper witnesses were called?—I have no doubt.

6320. Mr. *Liddell.*] Was it at the man's own request that he and his family were removed back to Urchfont?—It was.

6321. The two removals took place at the expense of the union from which he came?—I am not aware whether the expense of his being removed again falls upon the union or not, but I should suppose that it would; I am not conversant with the new system.

6322. Mr. *Baines.*] Is not the character of Mr. Rouse such as to form a guarantee against the supposition, that he would make an engagement with a poor man at this distance, and then violate it?—I must beg to say, that I have nothing whatever to allege against Mr. Rouse of my own knowledge, and if Mr. Rouse's name has been introduced to this Committee, it has been necessarily introduced as a person with whom a contract was made.

6323. *Chairman.*] Were you aware of the terms of the contract?—I was not.

6324. Did the man state to you the terms of the contract?—He did not.

6325. Did he state to you that the terms of the contract, whatever they were, had not been complied with?—Yes.

6326. Mr. *Liddell.*] Might there not have been a misunderstanding between the parties in Devizes and the migration agent?—There might.

6327. Mr. *Wakley.*] You did not state that the contract was made between Mr. Rouse and the migration agent?—I did not; I have nothing to urge against the respectability of that firm, or any member of it.

6328. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you visited several of the migrants at their own homes, and can you state to the Committee the condition in which you found them, as regards their furniture, and their beddin gand their clothing, and such things that poor families want?—I should say, with regard to several of those cases, that they were cases of extreme destitution of every thing of that sort, without beds, without blankets, in fact, without any furniture.

6329. Have you ever seen any contracts which have transferred those labourers from the rural districts to the north?—I have not.

6330. The objections strongly urged against the new Poor Law in the north are, first, the workhouse test; the central board for the control of it; the migration of labourers, which is practised under the law from the south to the north, and an apprehension of a reduction of wages arising to the poor in the north; all these four points produce the great objection to the introduction of the new Poor Law in the north?—Yes; there are also others, particularly the taking away from the rate-payers the power of managing their own affairs.

6331. Mr. *Liddell.*] Are the bastardy clauses objected to in that country?—Most decidedly.

6332. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you apprehend that there will be imminent danger from forcing the introduction of this law into the manufacturing districts in which you reside?—I have no doubt of it.

6333. Does the feeling in opposition to the law increase, or has it latterly diminished?—The feeling of opposition to the law may sometimes be suspended and lie dormant, but I believe it will never be eradicated until the law, in all its distinguishing and vital principles, to which you have already referred, is repealed.

6334. *Chairman.*] You have lived some time at Bradford?—I have.

6335. Have you resided for any time in any district of England where this new Poor Law has been in operation?—I have not; but I am a native, and have been during a considerable portion of my life an inhabitant of the rural districts of Essex and Suffolk.

6336. Have you resided in those districts of Essex or Suffolk since the new Poor Law has been introduced there?—I have not.

6337. You have never, therefore, had an opportunity of personally observing the operation of the law?—No.

6338. Your impressions, therefore, are derived from others, or from reading the law?—My objections to the law are mainly directed against its principles. If its practice for the present were altogether different from what I understand or believe it to be, I should still object to its principles; I am aware, with regard to legislation, that when once a principle is established, it will undoubtedly, by a course of legislation, reach its results; the time may be, perhaps distant, when it does

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reach those results, but when a principle of legislation is once established, its ultimate results must be expected to follow.

6339. Do you know what the operation of the former law was at Bradford?—I believe satisfactory to all parties.

6340. Do you know or not whether at Bradford it was the practice to refuse out-door relief to the able-bodied?—I believe not.

6341. If it should have been stated to the Committee that the practice at Bradford, prior to the introduction of this new law, was to refuse out-door relief to the able-bodied, that, in your opinion, would not be a correct statement?—I have never heard such a statement.

6342. And if such a statement should have been made, it would not, in your opinion, be correct?—It would not, with regard to Bradford.

6343. Was there a workhouse at Bradford?—There was.

6344. Have you been in the workhouse?—I have been in it only once.

6345. Do you know what the regulations were of that workhouse?—I know them only from having frequently heard the clergyman who regularly visits that workhouse, and goes there to instruct the people weekly, speak upon the subject, I mean the Rev. Mr. Morgan, and in conversation with him upon this subject, I have always understood from him that the inmates of the workhouse were very well contented with the system under which they were placed.

6346. Do you happen to know whether the males and females were separated in the workhouse?—I do not.

6347. But supposing that to have been the case; supposing the sexes to have been separated in the workhouse at Bradford; supposing them to have been separated in other workhouses long before the establishment of this law; supposing them to have been separated in the greater part of the workhouses in this town, and in all large towns, and in all large workhouses, should you think it just to ascribe that separation of the sexes to the introduction of this law?—I should not think it just to ascribe any thing to the introduction of this law, which exitesd previously to it; but we are given to understand that this is an *amendment* of former laws. If such practices had existed under former laws, I should suppose that a Poor Law *Amendment* Act ought to have removed all those things.

6348. You think the practice of the separation of the sexes is an objectionable one?—I do.

6349. Have you ever heard that where that practice has not been observed, the general result has been great indecency and immorality?—I have not.

6350. Supposing it should be proved by the experience of many workhouses, that where a separation of the sexes was not enforced, great immorality and indecency and disorder should have been found to take place, would not that, in your mind, justify, in some degree, this separation?—It would not. I should say that it would go, in my mind, to show that the gathering together of a large number of persons in large workhouses was an evil to be avoided, and that the legislature should set itself to devise the means of affording relief to persons at their own homes, applying to all possible instances the test of work for relief, for, let it be understood, that I am most willing to agree to that as the test of destitution of able-bodied persons.

6351. But may there not be many persons in large towns, or even in rural districts, who are without friends, and who are without homes, and without any asylum to which they can go, and to whom the workhouse is an almost necessary resort?—Undoubtedly there may be such persons; but I apprehend that the Legislature should set itself to the great work of prevention, rather than of cure, for such cases as these, and that if such cases are proved to exist in a country abounding with wealth, like this, and professing the principles of Christianity, that it should induce the Legislature to abate that misery by every possible means, rather than to devise irksome and harsh measures connected with what is called its relief when it does exist.

6352. You say one of your objections to this law is, that it is a deprivation of relief to the poor; have you ever heard that the aged poor have been deprived of relief out of the workhouse under the present law?—I have not heard of any particular instances of that description (I am speaking of my own district), and for this reason, that the law cannot be said to be in operation with us at present.

6353. But you have expressed strong opinions upon the law. What is your own impression with reference to the aged poor; have you ever understood that under this law they have been deprived of relief at their own homes?—I have read

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at least of such instances; I cannot charge my memory with particulars at this moment, but I have read of such instances; but I apprehend that the most severe effects of this law are felt by what are called the able-bodied, who, from no fault of theirs, are destitute of the means of subsistence by labour.

6354. Under what regulations would you propose that relief should be given to the able-bodied?—I would propose, that when the able-bodied apply for relief, who are unable to obtain work, some work of a remunerating kind, and piece-work, if possible, should be provided for them, and I can see no objection in the agricultural districts to a quantity of land, where spade-husbandry, for instance, can be exercised, being taken for that purpose, and able-bodied persons being employed there in piece-work. I altogether object to the system of employing persons at labour, which is by no means profitable, either to themselves or others, merely for the sake of saying that they are employed. Digging holes, and filling them up, and practices of that sort, I conceive have a most demoralizing tendency.

6355. Have any means ever occurred to you, by which you would take security that the work which you would propose to provide for the able-bodied who are in want of relief should be of a remunerating kind?—It has occurred to me that it would be perfectly consistent with a just policy towards the labouring classes of society if a general minimum of wages were established by law.

6356. You think that would be desirable?—I do. I know it is contrary to the principles of political economy now generally professed.

6357. You say that the operation of this workhouse test, as it is called, is calculated to reduce wages; are you aware that the law has been in operation between two and three years in various parts of England?—I have heard so.

6358. Have you heard, in any of those districts, that wages have been reduced?—I have heard that in many of those districts the wages have not been amended in amount, and I am aware that provisions have risen also in price, which will amount, when taken into consideration together, to a diminution of wages. My impression is, that the ability to procure the necessaries and comforts of life has been reduced by this law.

6359. But have you heard any instance in which, where the law has been for some time in operation, wages have been reduced?—Wages have not been raised, that I am aware of, and provisions have, which amounts to a reduction of wages.

6360. You are not aware of any instance in which wages have been raised under the operation of this law?—I am not.

6361. You say that you have taken pains to state to the people what are the real principles and provisions of this law; did you attend a meeting convened on the 7th of February 1837, in Christchurch school-room, at Bradford?—I did.

6362. Did you state that, "Among other instances of the severity with which this law had operated, you would bring before the meeting a poor cripple, whom you yesterday met with in the town of Bradford; and that a friend of yours had mercifully delivered him from sharing the guardian system of the new union workhouse in the south?"—I did; and on that subject I would say, that according to the information which I have, the case there referred to having been animadverted upon in the House of Lords, and it having been intimated by a noble Member of that House, that it is his intention to bring it before a Committee of that House, I should wish to reserve all that I have to say upon that subject until I may be required to make my statement before a Committee of that House. I should wish, with the permission of this Committee, for the reason that I have already stated, not to enter upon that question at all, inasmuch as I am likely to be required to answer some inquiries upon that subject.

6363. Did you state at that time, that "the mother of this cripple was a poor widow, and that she received for one of her family a single loaf as out-door relief; and was it not for fear of her losing her single loaf, you would have given names and places, but that the poor lad's friends requested you not to do so?"—Yes, I did.

6364. Did you also state at that meeting, that "the same boy told you that a young woman in the workhouse where he had been, had been whipped, flogged on her naked back, like a soldier, with a whip having eight or ten lashes?"—Yes, I did.

6365. Did you, in consequence of having made this statement, receive the following letter from the Poor Law Commissioners:—"Poor Law Commissioners' Office, Somerset House, February 11, 1837. Reverend Sir,—I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales to request your attention

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to the following passages which appear in the 'Times' newspaper, of the 8th instant, in a report purporting to be an extract from the 'Bradford Observer,' of a speech delivered by you at a meeting held in Christchurch school-room, to take measures against the introduction of the Poor Law Amendment Act into the Bradford district. The passages to which I allude are as follow:—1st. 'But I will produce testimony of another kind. Here stands before you a poor cripple, whom I yesterday met with in this town. A friend has mercifully delivered him from sharing the terrors of the "guardian"—ay, the "guardian" system of the new union workhouse in the south. His mother is a poor widow, and receives for one of her family a single loaf in "out-door relief." Was it not for fear of her losing that single loaf, I would now give you names and places; but the poor lad's friends request me not to do so. But, Sir, I will tell you the names confidentially, and show you my proofs.' 2d. 'The boy also stated, that a young woman in that house had been stripped, flogged on her naked back, like a soldier, with a whip having eight or ten lashes.' 3d. 'Mr. Bull then referred to the suicide of William Minto, attributed by a Newcastle paper to the dread of being removed to Bedlington Union workhouse. He had been a month missing, and was found hanging on a tree! The coroner's jury, said Mr. Bull, returned a verdict of "temporary insanity," which ought to have been "wilful murder against the oppressors of the poor."' Assuming the report in question to be correct, as it does not appear to have been contradicted by you, the Poor Law Commissioners feel it to be their duty to institute inquiries to ascertain the truth of the allegations contained in the paragraphs above set forth, with the view, if they be founded in truth, of considering the proceedings which it may be requisite to take for the correction of the offenders, and of preventing any repetition of the offences. Referring to each paragraph by its number, I have, therefore, to ask, 1st. What is the name of the cripple alluded to in this paragraph, and also the name of the friend who is said to have rescued him from an union workhouse in the south; and where is that workhouse situated, and what are the proofs to which you allude? 2d. What is the name of the young woman alluded to as having been 'stripped, flogged over her naked back, like a soldier,' with a whip having eight or ten lashes, and in what place, for the administration of relief to the poor, has this treatment been inflicted? 3d. The Commissioners also request that you will state whom you designate as the oppressors of the poor, of whom you say, in Minto's case, that a verdict of 'wilful murder' should have been returned against them? The Commissioners have desired these questions to be directed to you, because until the facts which the answers should disclose, assuming the assertions to be true, be ascertained, justice cannot be enforced. They do not, of course, desire you to give any answers, or make any admissions, which may be prejudicial to yourself. I have to request as early a reply as your convenience will allow. I have the honour to remain, Reverend Sir, your obedient servant, *E. Chadwick*, Secretary." Did you receive that letter?—I did.

6366. Did you answer it?—I answered it in the "Times" newspaper.

6367. Did you return any answer to the Poor Law Commissioners?—I did not.

6368. May I ask your reason, having received this letter, which appears to be expressed in civil terms, why you did not give an answer to the parties who wrote to you?—To the Poor Law Commissioners, as individuals, I have nothing to object; they may be most highly respectable individuals; but to them, as Commissioners, I do object, upon grounds which I am willing to state to this Committee, if required.

6369. My question was, why, having received a perfectly civil letter from persons who were accused of mal-administration, and who were implicated in the accusation, you did not return them any answer?—Because I did not wish by any act of mine to recognize the Commission.

6370. Do not you recognize that Commission by accusing them?—I do not recognize their authority to judge in such cases.

6371. I do not ask whether you recognize their authority to judge; but still the law gives those persons certain powers; they were charged by you with mal-administration of relief to the poor; they, or their agents, were accused by you in this statement of great mal-administration, in consequence of which great misery and oppression had ensued; they called upon you, in perfectly civil terms, to state the proofs upon which that accusation rested, in order that an inquiry

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inquiry might be instituted and a remedy be applied, and you refused to answer that letter?—I did.

6372. Do you think it perfectly consistent with justice that you should be at liberty to make a public accusation against parties, imputing to them great acts of severity, oppression and injustice, and when the parties so accused by you politely ask you to produce your proof, in order to vindicate themselves, or to ascertain their truth, that you should decline to answer their letter?—I owed an account to the public, which account I rendered.

6373. Does not the accuser owe something to the accused?—In this case, although it may be a general rule, I consider it an exception to the rule; because, by writing to the Poor Law Commissioners, I should recognize to a certain extent their power and authority, as being a constitutional and a christian power and authority, which I do deny, and for those reasons I did not write to them, not out of any personal disrespect to them, but for the reasons that I have stated.

6374. This is not a question of personal disrespect; you made a public accusation; you charged them, or their agents acting under their orders, with very serious offences; they asked you for the means of enabling them to ascertain whether those charges were true; and I ask you whether you consider it consistent with your notions of justice to refuse to them the means of making that inquiry?—I consider that the tribunal before which they were desirous to bring that matter, was not the tribunal from which justice could be obtained.

6375. That was your reason for not making any reply to them?—That was one.

6376. You say you owed nothing to the Commissioners, though you accused them, but that you owed an account to the public; what reply did you make to the public?—I replied to the public in the newspaper from which I understood from their letter they had derived their information of the statements I gave.

6377. Is this the letter which you gave as an answer? [*a newspaper being handed to the Witness.*]—It is.

[*The same was read as follows:*]

"Now, sir, as it was through your columns that the Commissioners obtained, it would seem, their information of this speech, so through your medium I choose, if you will allow me, to reply. I am so sincerely and conscientiously opposed to the constitution of this board, and so averse to the Act, as a whole, which they are so well paid for administering, that I cannot now notice the communication of Mr. Chadwick, without at once entering my most decided and solemn protest against this un-English tribunal of the Poor Law Commission, usurping, as it appears to me to do, the greatest prerogatives of the King, the Parliament, and the courts of law. The object of this usurpation is also my abhorrence, which appears to be, the oppression of the poor, and that oppression more hateful because of the deceit with which the whole system is enveloped. But to Mr. Chadwick: I by no means regret a single line I have written, or a single sentence I have spoken, against this unchristian Act, as I esteem it, since it was first mooted. I beg to inform him, and his despotic masters, the 'Three Kings,' as I term them, that the report quoted in the above letter is substantially correct, and that, in answer to the question numbered 1, I have to say, that I am prepared to disclose the names of the cripple, and of his friend, and of his mother, and of the workhouse (from being immured in which the kindness of that friend rescued him); and to prove, as I engaged to do to the chairman of the meeting, that the cripple whom I produced, and his friend, who was present, were not fictitious characters, but were the persons I represented them to be, and that they are respectable in character and worthy of credit; all this I am ready to do, and to open the way for the strictest investigation, upon condition that I have a substantial security that the loaf, 'the single loaf' of the widow's child, shall not be taken away until that child is able to provide for itself. But, sir, I will not, cannot, accept any security from these Commissioners, since the Act which they administer gives them power (clause 15) to rescind all their orders, and to break all their promises as soon as made, and I am not young enough to be caught in that trap. They shall invest the cost of that weekly loaf for the next seven years in the nearest savings' bank, in the widow's name, or they shall get no names from me. I have given my word to the parties, and I shall not 'rescind' it. Those gentlemen, with their 800*l.*, 1,500*l.* and 2,000*l.* a year, may think this single loaf a small affair, but when the victims of the 'guardian' mercy of this Act are pining upon 1*s.* 3½*d.* a week, in order that these high and mighty lords may grow fat upon the pretended 'savings,' the loss of a single weekly loaf is a serious matter, though a small one in itself; and in this respect their 'economy' must be the guide of my conduct. To the question, No. 2, I have to answer, that I have from my informants the name of the young woman who was stripped and flogged 'like a soldier,' with a whip having eight or ten lashes, and of the union workhouse where this barbarism was inflicted; and I am prepared to disclose those names and to open the way for, not a Poor Law Commissioner's investigation, nor a board of guardians' investigation, with closed

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doors, and to the exclusion of the reporters of the press; but I am ready to promote a British, a legal investigation before the courts of law, the ancient and venerated courts of England; before our revered and independent judges; before a fair jury of honest Englishmen. Let them give me legal and approved security that the perpetrators of that barbarity shall be prosecuted in the Court of King's Bench with a view to afford redress to the injured party, and I am ready to give up my authority for my statement; but as to any recognition of these gentlemen as a competent court to try the cause of the poor, no power on earth shall compel me to it. Right or wrong, I regard the Poor Law Commission as a most dangerous usurpation of the constitution, and, in my own mind, I consider the advisers and contrivers of that measure as guilty of constructive treason against the crown and dignity of my rightful sovereign, and as guilty of a conspiracy against the liberties of my country. But to question, No. 3, I am asked, 'Whom I designate the oppressors of the poor, and of whom I say, in Minto's case, that a verdict of wilful murder should be returned against them?' To which I reply, that they are the individuals, whether under the old Act or the new Act, who, by a series of hard and oppressive measures towards Minto, at length drove him to despair; and in heaven's righteous court they shall answer it, though the partial laws of this world may allow them to escape. It seems queer, sir, that Mr. Chadwick should be ordered to ask me to point out the wilful murderers of poor old Minto, when, as I am informed, the Assistant-commissioner, Sir John Walsham, has commanded the guardians of the Morpeth Union, in which the workhouses referred to are situated, to form a committee of their own body to investigate the case. The result of such an investigation will doubtless be, that the guardians will acquit the guardians; but why then apply to me? But, sir, if Mr. Chadwick's question—'Whom do you designate the oppressors of the poor?' is to be put in a more wide and general sense, I can freely reply, without condition and without reserve, that I regard all who patronize and who administer this un-English law, in the spirit of its founders and framers, as oppressors of the poor; I regard the whole system as one of wrong, as based upon unchristian principles and inhuman feelings, and as contrived in a spirit of deceit. Deceit and oppression are mentioned in many places of Holy Writ as inseparable companions; and thus, in this Act, the word 'amendment' really means the retention of some of the worst parts of the old system, with sundry hateful additions out of the Commissioners' own store. The word 'guardian' really means a mere delegate of three despots; the word 'relief' means grief and deprivation; the term 'relieving officer' is applied to men who are appointed to screw down the poor to the last point of endurance, whilst the officials under this Act are boasting of making 'independent labourers;' their practice, in many cases, is to cause them to be sent into these manufacturing districts, and to be bound, hand and foot, by agreement, for three years, to certain avaricious factory masters, at reduced wages; and this is perpetrated by certain subalterns of theirs, called 'migration agents.' Thus, too, the boasted 'decrease of bastardy' turns out to be only a decrease of figures in the official returns, but, in reality, an increase of child-murder and of female suicide, and no decrease, as is believed, of the illicit intercourse of the sexes. In the same spirit of deceit, the rate-payers of England and Wales are amused by being called upon to elect 'guardians;' and when this is done, they have but created so many tools for the three Commissioners, and given up their own ancient and just right to the control and dispensation of the poor tax, which they themselves pay; and thus it is come to pass, that this expenditure, to the amount of 5,000,000 *l.* or 6,000,000 *l.* of our taxes (i. e. poor-rates) is in the sole power of the three Commissioners! And these, forsooth, are the men who prate incessantly about taxation and representation being equal! Well, sir, I will stop here for the present; I dare not prognosticate. The shadows of fearful events flit indeed before me. I hear the wheels of God's avenging car groan heavily along the road. Pity me as an enthusiast, if you please. I perceive the rising sun of an immense mass of the people of England, and of the dense masses in these provinces especially. I see the barriers which the agricultural counties once opposed to revolutionary movements from hence broken down; the way is open now. I behold the enemies of monarchy and constitutional government chuckling at the game which these heartless and brainless philosophers are playing for them; and whilst the three Commissioners are fattening like swine for the slaughter upon their thousands twice told, and whilst they and their assistants and minions are praising their gods of silver and of gold and of brass, and admiring their own devices, I hear the suppressed but powerful and heaven-rending moan of the widow, of the fatherless and of the friendless, saying, 'Lord, how long?' and I hear the responsive sympathy of thousands, who echo back the cry, 'Lord, how long?' Another word, and no more: Just observe the very kind consideration of these gentlemen for me, lest I should make admissions or give any answers prejudicial to myself. Sir, tell these insolent men from me that I am no felon at the bar of justice, to whom such advice and caution is usually tendered; tell them that I, as a clergyman, do not receive my little pittance for the purpose of doling out to the unfortunate poor a coarser sort of food. It is for tyrants to tremble; but as for me, '*Murus aheneus mens sibi conscia recti.*' Firm like a wall of brass the mind remains, conscious of rectitude. I have read of Maberly, the persecuted clergyman, the victim of Lord J. Russell's malice, and of the Commissioners' spite, because he exposed and denounced this tyrant law; but I am not afraid; I know their power; I have read the 98th and 99th clauses of the Act, which empower them to fine and to imprison 'those who treat the Commissioners with any contempt;' I know it all, but I am not afraid; it is for tyrants to tremble, but not for me. I am, Sir, your most obliged, *G. S. Bull.*"

6378. This

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6378. This is your answer to the letter of the Commissioners?—Yes.

6379. Having received a perfectly civil letter, are you still of opinion that the proper way of answering that letter was by not answering the letter to the person who wrote it to you, and whom you had very much accused, but, instead of doing so, publishing this flaming letter in the newspaper?—I think it was the best plan that I could possibly adopt.

6380. You are still of opinion that that was the proper course to adopt?—Yes, I am.

6381. That being your opinion, allow me to ask you, with respect to the charge; you were asked to name the cripple, and you refused to name him unless the Commissioners would undertake to lodge in a savings' bank seven years' value of the loaf that the widow received; was that so?—Yes.

6382. Supposing that it had been a reasonable proposal, out of what funds were the Commissioners to lodge the value of this loaf?—I should wish to refer once more to my expressed wish, that, with regard to all particulars of this case, I may reserve any answers that I may have to make when I may be called upon to give them in another place.

6383. Will you give either an answer or a refusal?—I decline to answer, upon the ground that I expect to be questioned upon that subject in another place.

6384. You having come here upon your own application, and the Committee having agreed to examine you upon your own application to be examined, you now refuse to answer the questions put to you by the Committee?—In applying for an opportunity, through my friend Mr. Fielden, to be examined by this Committee, I was induced to do so chiefly on account of having understood that my name had been brought forward here in reference to a meeting which was held at Hartshead Moor, and I thought, as I was in town, I might be able to give the Committee any information upon that subject quite as well as any other person could give it for me; but I distinctly stated to Mr. Fielden since I came into this room, that I wished, with reference to any thing that might be asked me here, to reserve any information I might have to give, or any answer I might have to give upon this point, to another opportunity, and I do beg to say, that I am not refusing to answer inquiries upon that subject; but I am requesting not to answer now, because I expect to be examined in the House of Lords.

6385. I must ask you the name of the cripple whom you produced at that meeting at Bradford?—I request to be excused from entering into particulars, because I expect to be called upon elsewhere.

6386. I ask you distinctly to give me the name of that cripple?—I request to be excused from giving the name, on the account I have already stated.

6387. Do you decline giving the name?—For the reason I have already stated.

6388. You decline it?—Yes.

6389. I ask you the name of the girl, who you say "was flogged upon her naked back, like a soldier, with a whip having eight or ten lashes?"—I have not the name with me at this time; I never expected to be examined upon any such subject, and I decline giving it, if I had it with me, for the same reason that I have stated.

6390. You have not the name with you, and if you had it with you, you would decline producing it?—I would, for the reason stated already.

6391. Mr. *Liddell.*] Have these cases been specifically mentioned and alluded to in the House of Lords?—They have.

6392. To your knowledge?—Yes.

6393. Have you every reason to believe that you will be examined upon that point?—I have.

6394. Mr. *Baines.*] By whom examined?—By a Committee of the House of Lords.

6395. Has there been any Committee of the House of Lords appointed?—It has been stated by a noble lord, that it is his intention to move a Committee for that purpose.

6396. *Chairman.*] You now being before a Committee of the House of Commons, and having come here by your own application, and a question being proposed to you, even supposing a Committee of the House of Lords to be appointed, is that a reason for your refusing to answer a question before a Committee of the House of Commons?—In applying to be examined here, I made the express reservation of this matter to Mr. Fielden, and I did so as lately as this morning,

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on coming into the room, in conversation with him. As a clergyman, occupying a responsible situation in the country, and as one who, like every other person, must stand or fall by his character, it is a matter of very great importance to me that I should have an opportunity, if it is thought proper to give me one, of answering for myself before the same public tribunal, the highest in the land, as that before which I have been accused.

The Committee-room was cleared. After some time, the Witness was called in, and directed by the Chairman to attend the Committee on Friday, at Twelve o'clock.

TWENTY-FIRST REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
28 *March* 1838.

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TWENTY-SECOND

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
30 *March* 1838.

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Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.	Mr. Ward.
Mr. Fazakerley.	Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Richard Walker.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.	Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Baines.	Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Lister.	Mr. Chichester.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.	Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. Liddell.	Mr. John Fielden.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).	

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, That power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the RELIEF of the POOR under the Orders and Regulations issued by the COMMISSIONERS appointed under the Provisions of the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT; and who were empowered to report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them from time to time to THE HOUSE;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

30 *March* 1838.

WITNESS.

The Reverend *George Stringer Bull.*

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Veneris, 30° *die Martii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Hodges.
Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt.	Mr. Scrope.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend *George Stringer Bull*, again called in; and further Examined.

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6397. *Chairman.*] YOU were asked some questions with regard to statements you had made at Bradford in the course of February 1837, which you declined answering; do you still decline answering those questions?—Certainly not, if the Committee desire me; I was not at all aware that in making the request that I did of the Committee, I should be considered by them as having at all refused to answer the questions; I merely preferred answering them before a Committee of the House of Lords, which I understood was to be appointed; but I by no means decline to answer the questions here, if the Committee desire me to do so, as far as the absence of my documents will enable me.

6398. Let me ask you the name of the cripple to whom you alluded at that meeting?—I do not remember the name, having no document whatever with me; I quite forget the name; and I cannot mention either names or places without my documents; I shall be most happy, however, to produce them all when it may be convenient to the Committee.

6399. Do you know the union to which that cripple belongs?—I cannot be certain of that.

6400. Can you procure that information and send it to the Committee?—I can.

6401. With regard to the young woman whom you stated to have been flogged, can you give her name?—I believe I can, on reference to the documents, but not now; I believe I can give the names and places and every thing which will enable the Committee to enter into the fullest investigation upon the subject; I would just say that a large number of cases of that description being frequently brought before me, I have not been able to charge my memory with individual cases, but I have in most instances made those memoranda which will enable me at any time to refer to all statements that may be necessary.

6402. You say that a large number of cases of this description have been brought before you; can you give the Committee any information with regard to those cases?—I cannot at present; I mean to say, that in the last three or four years, during which I have taken an interest in this question, a very considerable number of cases have been from time to time reported to me as occurring in consequence of the operation of the new Poor Law, and that I cannot charge my memory with particular names or places; I generally, however, take care to make those memoranda which shall enable me, when called upon, to refer to the places.

6403. Have you ever, in consequence of those cases having been mentioned to you, taken pains to investigate the cases, so as to ascertain whether they were true or not?—In some I have.

6404. In those cases in which you have taken pains to ascertain the truth, can you give the Committee information respecting them?—Not at present.

6405. Can you put the Committee at any time in possession of the detail of those cases?—I shall be most happy to do so.

6406. Will you be so good as to refer to your memoranda and communicate to the Committee the details of such cases?—If the Committee will indulge me with

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sufficient time to refer to my memoranda, I will give the Committee that information.

6407. Mr. *Wakley.*] You will prepare the information from documents now in your possession?—Yes.

6408. Mr. *Scrope.*] In what shape does your information come; is it derived from the parties who are themselves cognizant of the facts, or is it derived from published printed reports?—I am now referring to both classes of cases; to those that have been reported to me by parties themselves cognizant of the facts, and to others that have been reported in the public papers.

6409. Mr. *Baines.*] Did the cripple speak at the meeting?—That cripple was asked some questions at the meeting; that report which has been read to this Committee of what took place at that meeting, is an outline of the facts which occurred, or of the statements which were made; and the cripple was asked questions upon the subject; a certain statement which he had made was read, and he was asked whether that statement was correct, and he confirmed it.

6410. That was at the meeting?—It was.

6411. That does not appear upon the face of the report?—I understand that it does; that it is clearly implied there; it was intended to be so, whether it gives that impression to your mind or not.

6412. *Chairman.*] There appears in the newspaper of the 16th of December 1837, a statement of a speech of yours at a meeting at Bradford, the meeting having apparently taken place on the 13th December 1837; and in that speech there is reference to the case of Mary and John Howes; you are stated to have said this, in allusion to one of the clauses in the new Poor Law, "He," Mr. Bull, "must say that it was not in human power, after a couple had been joined together, to separate them; the Poor Law Commissioners however attempted this; he would give them an illustration of the fact by reading to them the case of Mary and John Howes, who had recently come to Bradford from Nottingham;" the reverend gentleman then read the following statement, "The case of Mary Howes, of Nottingham, Bradford, Dec. 13, 1837: My husband's name is John Howes; we were both born and brought up in Nottingham; he is by trade a smith; we have five children; we had seven, two are dead; whilst he had work we had a very comfortable home; my husband never was a drunken man; he was a kind husband and a good father; he regularly attended the Calvinist Chapel, Pilcher-gate, Nottingham; two years last October he fell out of work, from the slackness of trade; he tried to get any sort of work, and for a time served the bricklayers, and in that work he fell and injured himself considerably; at last, being able to get no work of any sort, we sold all we had for food, and then applied for relief to the head overseer (Barnett), upon which we were offered relief in the Nottingham Union workhouse; we stayed out a week, almost without food, and at last we went in; it is a very large building; we had nothing but what we stood up in; we went in at the gate and into the yard; there we met Mr. Barnett, at the office, to have our names and ages set down; he then told us that we must be parted; we said it was hard for us to be parted from our children, as well as from one another; he said he could not help it, it was not his ordering; I believe Mr. Samuel Fox, the quaker, that is a guardian, has a deal to do in the ordering; we were then parted, my husband one way, my children another, and I and my baby went to the bottom kitchen; one of the nurses then came and asked how old my baby was; I said it was 14 months, and she told me she must have it to take into the nursery; this I refused for an hour; I would not give it up; Mr. Barnet then threatened to put me in prison; there is a prison inside the workhouse; they also sent to my husband and brought him to me, and asked his leave to let my child be taken away; he would not give consent, and then they took it away by force; then I sat and fret; they put me in the wash-house to wash from seven to six, with three half-hours for meals; I never saw my babe for a fortnight; it was not weaned before we parted; I was nearly off of my head; I never took three meals during the time; on a Sunday I was allowed to see the children for one hour; I cannot express my feelings that hour; my husband was allowed to come for that hour too; we were almost heart-broken when we parted again; my youngest but one, two years and nine months, cried the first time when the hour was up and parting time come, and because it cried, they would not let me see it again for a fortnight; we remained better than a year; my husband said to Mr. Barnett, (when we went in) that if they would let us have 3*s.* a week, we would all go out, but he could not grant it. After about a year we went out into an empty house, got some straw to lay on, and me and my little girl supported

supported ourselves, with the help of our relations; my husband got any little job he could, but could not get none at his trade. After five months we were forced to go in again, and the same parting took place again; our reason for going in again was, that we could get no furniture and the weather was cold, and we could not bear it. We stopped in the second time more than four months; my husband then said he would go out to seek work at Manchester; this is six months ago; two months after him I left, and took all my children out who were then living. I have two sisters at Nottingham, Bulliphant and Straw; their husbands, John Bulliphant and William Straw, are twist hands. Two of my children have a little work, and get from 2 *s.* to 3 *s.* a week; my relatives make out for the rest. Two of my children, George, five, and William, seven, died in the workhouse; they were much affected by our being parted; they died within a fortnight, of inflammation in the chest; the nursery was new built, and I believe that the damp and their fretting was the cause of death; I never knew of George's illness till the day before he died; he had been ill four days, and the other was eight or nine days ill before I saw him; I was not allowed to see him till three days before he died; they were very healthful children before we went in. I expect my husband is at Leeds. I was brought up in Zion Chapel Sunday-school at Nottingham. I am sure every word of this is correct." Then follows the mark of Mary Howes, and witnessed by Elizabeth Bradley; did you make that statement?—I read that statement at the meeting.

6413. Are the expressions preceding that statement, purporting to be your words, correctly printed?—I believe substantially so. I would observe, that I made the statement after reading some clauses in the Act, which, I believe, some previous speaker had referred to. On that occasion I did no more than read for the meeting any public document that was required. I did not take any resolution distinctly at that meeting, but acted merely as the secretary, if I may use the expression, to the meeting.

6414. But you are reported to have spoken at considerable length upon that occasion; is that inaccurate?—I did no more than read the documents, and this case in illustration.

6415. What follows in the paper is, "Mr. Bull then proceeded to comment at some length and with considerable eloquence, on the iniquitous clauses of the Poor Law Bill, and concluded amid loud cheers." You made some observations?—I made some few remarks.

6416. You say, that "to separate parties who have been joined together is not in human power, and that the Poor Law Commissioners have attempted it," and in illustration of the fact you read the case of Mary and John Howes; are you aware that the whole of those circumstances occurred before the Poor Law Bill was introduced into Nottingham?—I was not aware of it at the time.

6417. Are you aware that all this description, whether true or false, is of a matter, which, from the dates, must necessarily have taken place before the Poor Law was introduced into Nottingham?—I was not aware that that was the case at the time.

6418. Have you been made aware of it since?—I heard a statement made the other day in the House of Lords to that effect.

6419. Do you consider yourself justified in making those statements tending to produce a considerable effect upon the public mind, without taking pains to ascertain whether they were true or false?—I will state the circumstances under which that information was placed before me. A meeting was about to be held in Bradford upon the subject of the Poor Law, and about two o'clock in the day in the evening of which the meeting was to be held, I received a note by the hand of Mary Howes, or a person professing to call herself Mary Howes, from Mr. Oastler, who had met with Mary Howes, I believe, at Toothill; that note was addressed to me, and in that note he requested that I would take down the case of Mary Howes, which, from his knowledge of the localities and the persons in Nottingham, and from all circumstances, he believed to be correct; he requested me to take that case down, and to read it to the meeting. In compliance with that request I did take the case down, and I read it at the meeting. I would also say, that at the time that the woman called at my house I was not at liberty to attend to her; I had some other engagement, and I desired her to go to a school-room, which was contiguous, and to wait there till I could put Mr. Oastler's request into execution. She remained there upwards of an hour before I went down, and that circumstance, she being a stranger to me, tended to confirm in my mind the probability of the truth of her case, inasmuch as I conceived that if she had

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had felt conscious that she was about to state what was an imposition, she would have been alarmed at the delay that took place between the time of her calling upon me and my going down to take the statement. I have no doubt that Mr. Oastler will be able to justify to the Committee the course that he recommended to me upon that occasion.

6420. You made the statement upon the faith of the representation made to you by Mr. Oastler?—I did.

6421. Have you ever, since you have made this statement, taken any pains to ascertain whether there was the least truth in it?—I believe Mr. Oastler has.

6422. Have you yourself?—I have written to a friend in Nottingham upon the subject.

6423. When did you write to him?—Some time afterwards.

6424. This statement was made on the 13th of December 1837; some months have elapsed since that occurrence; when did you take any pains to ascertain whether it was true or false?—Soon after I understood that the truth of it was called in question.

6425. What was the result of your inquiry?—The result of my inquiry was, that my friend to whom I wrote, after consulting with those whom he thought likely to obtain information upon the subject, was unable to attest the truth of the fact; but, from the circumstances which had passed under his notice, he considered that the facts themselves were extremely probable, though he could not obtain evidence to confirm them.

6426. What facts are probable; do you mean that it was probable that this happened under the orders and regulations of the Commissioners?—That it is probable that that happened at Nottingham.

6427. But it is stated to have occurred in the union workhouse of Nottingham; do you know when the Union of Nottingham was formed?—I did not know till it was mentioned, till I came up to London.

6428. Since it has been mentioned to you, have you not been aware that, from the dates, it was impossible that this could have occurred since the union was formed?—Since it has been mentioned, I have understood that that is the case.

6429. Having made this statement to the public, have you ever made any contradiction of the statement?—No.

6430. Have you, since you have been made aware, from the dates, that it was impossible that this could have occurred in the union at Nottingham, taken any steps to undeceive the public?—It was only the other night, in the House of Lords, that I understood that to be the case.

6431. Would not the printed reports of the Commissioners, which are accessible to every one, enable you to ascertain the date of the establishment of the union at Nottingham?—They would.

6432. Did you never refer to them in order to ascertain whether, in point of fact, it was possible that this could have occurred since the formation of the union?—I did not.

6433. Do not you think that a loose way of making statements to the public?—I considered that I was authorized in making the statement, from the local knowledge of Mr. Oastler of the circumstances, or rather of the localities of Nottingham, where this occurred, and that it was extremely probable, under all the circumstances, that this had taken place; and I would observe that many cases of very great hardships which have been published from most unexceptionable quarters would tend to produce a conviction upon my mind that such cases as those were extremely probable; I would, for instance, say, that when I read, as I do read in the "Globe" of May 1837, I do not know the exact date, the case of Hastings before a coroner's jury, the verdict of which jury was that, "John Hastings died for want of proper nutriment and medical assistance, partly arising from his having refused to accept an order to go into the Isleworth workhouse;" or when I read another case from the "Morning Chronicle" (both being papers which advocate the Poor Law) of the 27th of October 1837, where the chaplain of the Middlesex House of Correction reports, amongst other things, to the magistrates of Middlesex, sitting in quarter sessions, "that crime was much increased by the difficulty of the poor obtaining relief, in consequence of the Poor Law Act"—I would just cite these two cases amongst many others—when one meets with such cases as these from unexceptionable quarters, and in the columns of public journals which generally plead for the Poor Law, to refer to no others which might be mentioned, it tends to produce a conviction, at least upon my mind, that such cases as those are extremely

tremely probable, and, therefore, I felt no hesitation in believing the probability of the case, and I did believe the case to be correct at the time when I made the statement; and I would add that, in taking down the examination of this woman, I not only took down what she stated, but after having done so I strictly cross-examined her upon the subject, to ascertain whether she failed in any part of her statement, or whether she would contradict herself, and I never heard clearer evidence in my life, nor more consistent; I also most strictly charged her not to make any statements that were not correct, and pointed out to her what harm it might do to the cause of humanity and of truth, and also how very sinful it was in the sight of God to make any statement that she knew to be false; and I did this in the presence of a highly respectable person, the school-mistress, at whose table we sat when the case was taken down.

6434. You having given this very proper admonition to the woman, of the wickedness in the sight of God if she gave to you information that was false, do you not think that you yourself incur some responsibility, if, having ascertained that the statement was false, you did not immediately give a contradiction as public as the assertion?—My experience in such matters as these has taught me that it is much easier to deny the truth of a statement than to support that denial, and before I committed myself to the public in expressing my belief in the falsehood of the statement, I was anxious that some inquiries should be made upon the spot with reference to it.

6435. But was it necessary, in order to substantiate the truth, or to prove the falsehood of this statement, to have inquiries instituted upon the spot, when it appears, from public documents, the authority of which is indisputable, that the union workhouse was established at a date that made it impossible for those occurrences to have taken place in the union workhouse?—That circumstance I was not aware of until the other day.

6436. Did you, the moment you were aware of it, take means to make a public contradiction of it?—I did not, I have not had an opportunity.

6437. Are not the morning papers published every day?—Yes.

6438. Was not your statement, with reference to the case of Mary Howes, made in a morning newspaper?—Yes.

6439. You became aware that, with reference to the dates, it was impossible that this could have occurred since the establishment of the union at Nottingham?—I became aware of it the other day.

6440. Did you, when you became aware of it, take instant means to contradict the statement?—I had not an opportunity.

6441. Had you not an opportunity of inserting a paragraph in the same paper the next morning, contradicting it?—I did not do so.

6442. Why did you not do so?—I did not see the necessity for it.

6443. You thought yourself justified in leaving the public in complete error when you had ascertained the falsehood of your statement?—I understood, at the time I received information in the House of Lords of the error of that date to which I refer, that the matter was to be brought before a Committee of the House of Lords, and therefore I did not see it to be necessary, inasmuch as it was likely to undergo a public investigation, that I should take any steps at present with reference to it.

6444. Are you not aware that, not only from the dates, it is impossible that this could have occurred under the orders of the Commissioners, or under the operation of any of the clauses of the Poor Law Amendment Act, since (supposing it to be true that it did take place) it took place before the Poor Law was introduced into the town where this is stated to have occurred, but also that an application has been made to Mr. Barnett, then governor of the workhouse, to know whether any such persons have been in the workhouse, or whether any such circumstances occurred?—I am aware that persons upon the spot have made several inquiries upon the subject, and of Mr. Barnett among the rest.

6445. Are you aware what Mr. Barnett's answer has been to those inquiries?—That he has denied the statement.

6446. When did you know that Mr. Barnett had denied the statement?—I understood that he had denied the statement some time ago.

6447. Do you mean that till the debate occurred in the House of Lords, you were not aware, from the dates, that this must have occurred before the introduction of the new law into Nottingham?—I was aware that Mr. Barnett had

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denied the facts, but I was not aware of the circumstance of the dates till the other evening.

6448. You never took the pains to ascertain it?—I left the investigation of the matter to Mr. Oastler, he having requested me to take down the statement.

6449. Are you aware that Mr. Barnett has stated, in reply to inquiries upon this case, "The case of Mary Howes, dated December the 13th, and read at the Poor Law meeting, is altogether untrue; no such person or family has been in this workhouse; no children answering the description there given have died within the period referred to, nor has the treatment said to have been experienced by Mary and John Howes been experienced at any time, or by any person or persons, within this house?—I am aware that Mr. Barnett made a statement to that effect.

6450. When were you aware of that?—I cannot precisely state, but not long after the circumstance was mentioned at Bradford.

6451. Mr. *Estcourt.*] With reference to the case which you mentioned of a man at Urchfont, near Devizes, you are unable to give the name?—I will supply the Committee with the particulars of the case when I arrive at home.

6452. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you yourself still consider that there is any shade of probability in this case, or do you consider Mr. Barnett's refutation to be entirely and absolutely satisfactory?—I do not consider it to be satisfactory.

6453. Why?—Because I do not think, from what has been stated to me by some friends upon the spot, that it is quite certain at present that no such facts ever took place; and that is my impression on the subject.

6454. Is it that impression which you entertain upon the subject, which has prevented you from making a public acknowledgment of the incorrectness of your own statement?—Most decidedly.

6455. From the moment that you convince yourself, from inquiry, that that statement was positively and absolutely incorrect, from that moment you will not feel the slightest hesitation in giving a public contradiction to the statement?—Certainly not; I conceive, in answer to the question of the honourable member, that any person engaged in any cause of humanity may be, and frequently is, imposed upon; but if I discover that I have been imposed upon, and that I have given improper impressions respecting any person or persons, I shall be always most ready to acknowledge my error, and to make any reparation in my power; all that I feel particularly anxious about in the present instance is, to show to the Committee that I have not wilfully made any misstatements.

6456. Mr. *Scrope.*] You have made several statements, have you not, at public meetings, with respect to various cases of oppression and hardship, endured under the new Poor Law?—I have.

6457. Have you taken pains, in any instance, since you made those statements, to contradict any that you may have found to be false?—I am not aware that I have ever in any other instance than that which is before the Committee made statements that have not been substantiated; I have always taken the best pains which the circumstances of the case afforded to me of ascertaining the truth of the statement, before I made it.

6458. The case of Mary Howes was one of those cases which you have mentioned as having derived from parties cognizant of the facts?—The party cognizant of the facts was the woman who made the statement; the party believing this statement to be correct, and who recommended me to take down the case, and to state it publicly, was Mr. Oastler.

6459. But, having told the Committee that some of the cases which have been brought under your knowledge were derived from parties cognizant of the facts, and others from newspapers and public reports, this case you would describe as one of the cases obtained from parties cognizant of the facts?—I would describe the other case of the cripple as related by parties cognizant of the facts, and I would describe this case also, so far as the relater herself is concerned, as being a case which, in my belief at the time, was one derived from a party cognizant of the facts.

6460. Was the case which you produced at the meeting of the 1st of February, of whipping a young woman, also derived from a party who was cognizant of the facts?—So I understood.

6461. Did you take any pains afterwards to ascertain the truth of that fact?—I did not.

6462. You

6462. You think it one of a very startling and frightful description, do you not?—I do.

6463. And, if true, very strongly condemnatory of the practices under the new Poor Law?—Certainly.

6464. Did you happen to hear afterwards whether it was a fact or not?—I have never heard any doubt expressed about it by the parties themselves; I have seen the parties since the statement was made, and they have still adhered to it.

6465. You mention in the same speech a case of suicide of "William Minto, attributed by the Newcastle paper to a dread of being removed to the Bedlington Union workhouse; he had been a month missing and was found hanging on a tree. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of temporary insanity, which ought to have been wilful murder against the oppressors of the Poor;" that was your statement, was it not?—Yes.

6466. Is that one of the cases, the knowledge of which you derived from the perusal of a newspaper?—It is.

6467. You have no other authority for it?—I have no other authority for it, and I have the same authority for those cases from the "Globe" and the "Morning Chronicle," which I have stated.

6468. The same authority, the newspaper, upon which you rely, giving you the information that the coroner's jury had returned a verdict of temporary insanity, you yet thought it right to declare that that verdict ought to have been one of wilful murder, and that the suicide of this individual was owing, not to insanity, but to a dread of removal into the workhouse?—It is my belief, supposing the premises to be correct, that the parties are morally, though not legally, implicated in the death of William Minto, so that a verdict of wilful murder against them would have been correct, rather than a verdict of insanity.

6469. What do you mean by the premises being correct; do you mean the evidence before the coroner's inquest?—The statement of his going away, from his dread of the union workhouse.

6470. Have you read the evidence; was that given in the newspapers?—No, it was not.

6471. Then all you read was the opinion of the writer, that the death of this individual had been owing to dread of the union workhouse?—Yes.

6472. And with no other authority than the opinion of that writer in the newspaper, probably an anonymous one, and on the other hand, the verdict of the jury summoned on the coroner's inquest being that the suicide was owing to insanity, you still thought yourself justified in telling a public meeting that the verdict ought to have been murder; that the man did die from the dread of the workhouse, and not from insanity?—I do think so still.

6473. *Chairman.*] You not having read the evidence?—I say if the premises are correct, I consider the conclusion to be just.

6474. Did you make the statement at the time with that qualification?—I did, to the best of my recollection; I stated the case hypothetically.

6475. What you are said to have stated is this: "Mr. Bull then referred to the suicide of William Minto, attributed by the Newcastle paper to a dread of being removed to the Bedlington Union workhouse; he had been a month missing, and was found hanging on a tree. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of temporary insanity, which ought to have been wilful murder against the oppressors of the poor;" that is represented to be your statement?—Yes, it is; but I certainly did state the case in the manner already mentioned, supposing the premises to be correct.

6476. What do you mean by the premises?—The statement made in the paper.

6477. Did you, in order to ascertain whether the premises were or were not correct, apply for the evidence taken before the coroner's inquest?—I did not.

6478. And you think yourself justified in making a statement charging parties with wilful murder, you not having read the evidence taken before the coroner's inquest, though the jury who heard the evidence returned a verdict of insanity?—At the meeting I stated it as my opinion, that if the person had been driven by the dread of the union workhouse into that state of desperation, they were morally responsible for the result.

6479. You are not reported to have made the statement with that qualification?—No, nor are any person's statements reported very accurately upon subjects generally, unless they are taken down with great accuracy by some person upon

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the spot; there ought to be some allowance made on that account. It is not an uncommon thing for even members of the Legislature to refer to reports in the public papers of what they have said, and to have those statements corrected; and even before this Committee I am allowed, I presume, by the chairman of the Committee, to offer any explanation to my statements, though taken down with the utmost accuracy and precision.

6480. Did you read the statement published in the newspaper, of what you are reported to have said on this occasion?—I believe I did.

6481. Did you discover that there was not the qualification which you say you made at the meeting?—I did not particularly notice it.

6482. Did you observe that without that qualification, you are reported to have said that, with reference to the suicide of "William Minto, attributed by the Newcastle paper to a dread of being removed to the Bedlington Union workhouse; he had been a month missing, and was found hanging on a tree; a coroner's jury returned a verdict of temporary insanity, which ought to have been wilful murder against the oppressors of the poor; followed by cheers, and hear, hear, hear!" That statement is here inserted without the qualification which you now profess to have used?—Yes.

6483. Did you read the statement as it appeared in the newspaper?—I did.

6484. Did you observe that the qualification which you now propose to introduce, was not introduced?—I did not notice it.

6485. Did you observe that you had charged parties with wilful murder?—I did not particularly notice *that* in my statement of the case, as it appears in the paper; I knew that I had not directly and without qualification charged those persons with wilful murder.

6486. Did you observe, having read this statement, that, in point of fact, by this statement, you are made directly to charge parties with wilful murder?—I did not observe it at the time.

6487. Was there any obscurity in the language?—I did not observe it at the time; I do observe that in the statement as you place it before me.

6488. You do observe that you charge parties with wilful murder?—I observe that it appears so in that report; but I at the same time beg to assert that I did not do so in my speech.

6489. You think it a serious matter to charge parties with wilful murder?—Certainly.

6490. Having read this statement, in which it appears that you charge parties with wilful murder without qualification, did you correct that statement?—I never did; I would also observe, that whilst it is serious to charge parties with wilful murder, it is a most serious circumstance to place parties in those circumstances which drive them to desperation.

6491. Mr. *Scrope.*] You stated that you mentioned this case publicly, believing it to be true; have you ever taken pains to ascertain whether it is true?—No.

6492. Have you looked into the evidence taken before the coroner's inquest?—No.

6493. Then you, having never looked into the evidence, attended a public meeting, in which you declared the falsity of the verdict of the coroner's jury, and that it should have been wilful murder instead of insanity?—I had no opportunity to look into the evidence.

6494. *Chairman.*] Did you ever apply to be permitted to look into the evidence?—I did not.

6495. Did you take any pains to ascertain the truth of the case?—I did not.

6496. Mr. *Liddell.*] Was the evidence published in the paper in which you saw the statement?—I believe it was not.

6497. Mr. *Scrope.*] Did you look through the subsequent Newcastle papers to see whether the evidence in the case upon which you grounded your charge was given or not?—I did not.

6498. May we take that case of William Minto as a specimen of the cases that you have brought before the public, and which have been brought before you upon the faith of newspaper reports?—Certainly you may not.

6499. Why not?—Because the greater number of those cases which I have been accustomed to bring forward I have had an opportunity of investigating more or less, myself.

6500. How came it, if the cases that you had investigated yourself were within your knowledge at the time you made this speech, you resorted to others which you

you derive from newspaper reports, and upon which you had no authentic information?—It appeared to me to be highly probable in itself, just as those cases which I have read to the Committee from the "Globe" and "Morning Chronicle." I had no means, and have no means, just now, of ascertaining the truth of those cases which are reported in the two papers I have referred to.

6501. You think that an impression upon your mind of the probability of the newspaper report, unauthenticated by any evidence, though that evidence was easily accessible, was sufficient to justify you in bringing forward a charge of wilful murder against persons in the situation of guardians of the poor of a union?—My impression is, that the fear of incarceration in the union workhouses operates so strongly on the minds of the working people generally, that almost any thing is probable to occur as the result of that fear, and that impression certainly is very strongly made upon my mind, so that there is nothing which I might not almost believe, with reference to the effect produced by the fear of confinement in those workhouses; for instance, allow me to say, that we find placed before the public very recently a statement, which I certainly have not at present an opportunity of authenticating, but which, I presume, is correct, by Mr. Bowen, a gentleman who has certainly given very satisfactory evidence upon this question, that the deaths in the hulks amongst the convicts are two and a decimal, and that the deaths in the Bridgewater workhouse were 41 and a decimal, per cent. per annum; now, with such a fact as that before me, or with such a statement as that before me, which I presume that gentleman would not make without having duly authenticated it, I am sure I could believe almost any enormity to occur, out of the fear of being confined in a place where such a mortality as that has occurred.

6502. Though your believing reports of the kind you have alluded to, published in the newspapers, may be sufficient to ground your private opinion upon, do you think such evidence is sufficient to justify the promulgation of facts, as facts, at a public meeting, at which you are liable by such statements to influence the opinions of large bodies of people, and to excite them perhaps to violence?—I beg to say, that no statements of mine have ever been intended to excite any one to violence; I deprecate violence altogether, but I certainly felt that I was justified in making the statements, from the impression that I had of their truth, or else I should not have made them.

6503. You stated, on the last day of your examination, that you had taken great pains to represent to the poor the real character of the law, and to excite them to a legal and constitutional opposition to a law contrary to the principles of justice and Christianity?—I did.

6504. Do you not think that you should take pains to ascertain the truth of the facts by which you endeavoured so to excite the minds of the public?—With regard to the question that is asked me, I would remark, that whatever may be the particular results of the law in any individual cases, it is against the principles of the law that I entertain the strongest objections, even if it could be shown that, under present circumstances, those effects were not produced.

6505. You say you told Mary Howes how sinful it was to make statements that were false; do you not think it equally sinful to make statements the truth of which you did not take the pains to ascertain?—I do not, and for the reasons that I have before stated; if there be circumstances continually developing themselves respecting the operation of a particular measure, such as this to which I have already referred, and if any circumstance connected with the operation of that measure is stated to me which appears to be analogous to others that have occurred, I do consider that I am not doing a sinful act in stating what I believe to be true, and what I have reason to think is true, from the analogy of other cases that have been proved.

6506. You also said, that having heard that the statement of Mary Howes had been contradicted by Mr. Barnett, you hesitated before you committed yourself to the public in contradicting that statement which you had made yourself, knowing how easy it is to deny a fact, though that denial is not easily susceptible of proof; do you not think that it would have been wise to have hesitated before you committed yourself to the public in making the statement which was afterwards denied by Mr. Barnett?—It is for others to judge of the wisdom of my proceedings.

6507. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you think that, supposing any person were to attend at a public meeting, and to make a declaration that was calculated to implicate

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your character, it would not be the duty of that person first to ascertain whether the statement which he made was a true statement or not; I put it to yourself individually; if I go to a public meeting, and I think proper to propagate a report that I have heard to your disadvantage, would it not have been my duty before I did propagate it to have ascertained whether the fact was true or was false?—Yes, I think it would, and I would particularly refer, as an illustration of that, to a case that applied to myself wherein I was once stated in the "Leeds Mercury," to have been guilty of kicking persons at a public meeting; and that statement was made by the editor of the "Leeds Mercury," without ever ascertaining whether that was the case, or not, respecting me; and I also did aver that that statement was wholly false.

6508. I suppose then you would think that the editor of the "Leeds Mercury" in making that statement misconducted himself, and ought to have taken the opportunity of ascertaining the facts before he made the declaration?—Yes, and I also observed that the editor of the "Leeds Mercury" never made me amends for that.

6509. In so doing he neglected to perform his duty?—Yes.

6510. Then, if you have made this declaration without first ascertaining the fact, and have not made any reparation to the injured party, you have neglected to perform your duty?—I would say, in answer to that question, that if I had been known to have been guilty of any such practices previously, as were then attributed to me, and if such things had been proved against me before, or had appeared in my general proceedings, such as kicking persons at public meetings, the editor of the "Leeds Mercury" would have been authorized to have inferred, if such a thing had been reported to him, that I had done so at the meeting referred to,

6511. *Chairman.*] In reference to your last answer, had the guardians of the union in which William Minto resided, to your knowledge, been guilty of practices which justified you in accusing them of wilful murder, upon the statement that you have before referred to?—The system which the guardians of every such union undertake to work is one which, in my opinion, is calculated to produce those results.

6512. What results?—I conceive it is highly probable that the dread of being confined and imprisoned in a workhouse will lead people to self-murder.

6513. Do you happen to know whether the number of suicides has increased in England since the introduction of the law?—I do not happen to know that, but I think it highly probable.

6514. Do you know any thing of the administration of the law, by experience?—I know the effect of the administration of the law, from the united testimony of persons in various parts of the kingdom.

6515. From Mr. Oastler, and from newspapers?—From many other sources.

6516. Mr. *Baines.*] Will you turn to question No. 6,249; you were asked in what manner the meeting was held, last Whitsuntide, on Heartshead Moor in the West Riding of the county of York, and you informed the Committee that it was held on a requisition sent to the Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire; did you mean to convey the impression that the Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire called the meeting?—I did not.

6517. Then the Lord Lieutenant did not call the meeting?—The Lord Lieutenant declined to call the meeting.

6518. Why did he decline to call the meeting?—As I was not one of the deputation who waited upon him, I cannot precisely state the terms in which he declined, but my impression is, from what was said to me, that the Lord Lieutenant assigned as his reason that he did not think it proper, in his official capacity as Lord Lieutenant, to sanction a meeting which was called for the purpose of requiring the repeal of a law already in existence, but that if it had been a Bill then before Parliament he should not have felt the same objection; that was what I understood to have been the answer.

6519. But, in point of fact, the Lord Lieutenant did not call the meeting?—No, the meeting was called in the name of the requisitionists, which is not unfrequently the case.

6520. That requisition was, you said, very numerously signed, by persons of all political parties and all religious denominations, and, notwithstanding that, the Lord Lieutenant refused to call the meeting?—Yes.

6521. You say that there has existed in West Riding of Yorkshire a very strong objection to the introduction of the new Poor Law?—Yes.

6522. You

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6522. You attended that meeting upon Hartshead Moor, did you not?—I did, but I took no part in it.

6523. But you attended and heard the proceedings of the meeting?—Some of them only.

6524. Do you happen to have heard one of the speakers at that meeting say, a meeting as you have stated, composed of from 150,000 to 200,000 persons, that the "new law was a law passed by a government of blood-stained tyrants"?—I never heard the expression used.

6525. Then, if that expression was used, you did not hear it?—I did not; I would say, that it was only during a very short part of the early proceedings of the meeting that I was near enough to hear any thing that passed; the crowd was excessively great, and the little that I did hear, I heard by getting underneath the hustings, which I found to be a very inconvenient position; and not choosing to go upon the platform, I retired to some little distance from the platform, and in fact heard very little of what took place.

6526. Then, if language like that was used at a meeting consisting of from 150,000 to 200,000 people, you would not be surprised that there was great hostility to a law that was so characterized?—No; but independently of the use of such language, I conceive that there would exist great hostility to the law.

6527. Did you hear another speaker declare that "they would bring the Parliament to its knees before them"?—I did not.

6528. Did you hear another speaker, speaking of the House of Commons, say that it was "a base House"?—No.

6529. Did you hear another of the speakers say that, "with the exception of Mr. Fielden, the honourable member for Oldham, there were not more than two honest men in the House of Commons"?—I did not.

6530. Mr. *Fielden.*] Supposing such expressions to have been used at that meeting, are you aware that those who took a part in the proceedings of the meeting, who resided in the neighbourhood where the meeting was held, disapproved *in toto* of those expressions?—I have heard their disapprobation expressed.

6531. Have you reason to believe that the expressions alluded to were uttered by individuals who had come from London to attend that meeting?—I am not quite aware who they were that used them, in fact several have been mentioned to me just now that I never heard of before.

6532. Do you know that there were at that meeting gentlemen on the hustings who reside in London, and who came down to that meeting?—I do; with regard to all such language, perhaps I may be permitted to say, that at public meetings in the north we are accustomed to meet with a great deal of violent language and violent proceedings; as an illustration of what I state, I may be allowed to state that during the agitation upon the Reform Bill there was a meeting held at Leeds, at which the Queen was dressed in breeches, and the King in petticoats, and the executioner, with a bloody axe, was borne before the procession, and three groans were given for the Queen, at the request of a *young gentleman*; I am sure, in all our poor-law agitations we have never arrived at that pitch; and that was done at meetings of highly *respectable* persons, so called.

6533. Mr. *Baines.*] If you were investigating the circumstances of excitation, you would think that those circumstances would very naturally account for the agitation; and it would be a part of the inquiry how that agitation arose, to find that such proceedings took place?—Yes; and in regard to the measure just alluded to, I have heard persons condemn those violent means which were then used to induce them to concur in passing the Reform Bill, for which they were very sorry afterwards. I would observe, with regard to all such language as that which has been quoted to me, that though I may have been considered by some persons violent in some of my expressions, I have always discountenanced and reproved any expressions of that kind which I have happened to hear on any occasion, by whomsoever they might have been stated.

6534. *Chairman.*] You have principally confined yourself to statements of facts, whether real or supposed?—I have not confined myself to statements of facts which I believed to be real; but I have gone into the principles of the law.

6535. And you have allowed those facts, when proved to be untrue, to remain uncontradicted?—I would suggest that I ought not to be required to implicate myself in a charge of that kind; I have never intentionally stated what I knew to be wrong.

6536. Mr. *Walker.*] You have stated that you were present when Mr. Thomp-

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son, one of the magistrates of Bradford, appeared before a meeting?—I was present.

6537. Mr. Thompson, you stated, showed some plans of the union workhouses?—He did.

6538. Were those plans sent to Bradford by the Poor Law Commissioners?—I really cannot tell; they were official plans, I presume they were sent by the Poor Law Commissioners.

6539. Were those sent by any authorized body, for the purpose of forming workhouses of the same kind in the neighbourhood of Bradford?—I am not at all aware.

6540. Did Mr. Thompson describe the plans to the people?—He described and exhibited them.

6541. Was he requested to do so by them?—No, he did it voluntarily.

6542. Was any comparison drawn by him between the system pursued in the union workhouses and the system pursued in the workhouses in the neighbourhood of Bradford?—The plans were evidently exhibited for the purpose of comparison, to show that the new system was to be a system of confinement; and there was one circumstance which Mr. Thompson, I think, very properly alluded to, namely, that in those plans he did not observe that there was any provision made for the reception of the furniture of those persons, if they had any, who were taken into those workhouses; and he, I believe, to the best of my recollection, asked the question, "Who is to furnish your cottages when you come out again?"

6543. Mr. *Fielden.*] Were the plans exhibited at that meeting published at the end of the Commissioners' Report?—I am not aware; I understood they were plans officially prepared.

6544. Have you not seen those plans which accompany the Reports?—I have seen them.

6545. Mr. *Walker.*] In the neighbourhood of Bradford, as far as your knowledge extends, are there places appropriated in the workhouses for the reception of furniture which has been brought from the cottages?—It is not the practice, as far as I am aware, in our neighbourhood, or has not been, under the old system, to make the entrance into the workhouse the test of relief to the able-bodied.

6546. *Chairman.*] You are not aware that that is the case at Bradford?—I am not.

6547. If it should be the case, what would be your opinion?—It would be my opinion that it is a very bad practice.

6548. If it should be the case, would it be your opinion that this new law imposed additional severity upon the people?—I should conceive that if such was the case we needed an amendment of the former system.

6549. Mr. *Walker.*] Have you not known, in the course of your residence at Byerley, particular instances of families where probably there has been great misconduct and idleness and profligacy, and where, in one or two instances, the family has been broken up for the purpose of applying the workhouse test to such families?—I am not aware of any such instances; during the time that I resided at Byerley I used occasionaly to visit the workhouse of the township in which I resided, and I always felt myself authorized, under the former Act, to do so, with the view of presenting, if necessary, to the magistrates, any thing that might arise, or of mentioning in a friendly manner to the select vestry any circumstances that I disapproved of.

6550. Do you not think that the board of guardians would be justified, if they saw a case of great profligacy in a family, and relief was sought by that family from those guardians, in offering the test of the workhouse to that family, and take possession of their furniture for the purpose of answering a different object?—I should think it an exceedingly bad precedent to establish; I should suppose that all the purposes of preventing imposition might be answered without any such test; and it would become exceedingly difficult, if the test was once admitted, which I consider objectionable altogether, to know to what cases it ought or ought not to be applied.

6551. What cure could you administer for that profligacy; I am speaking of an extreme case?—If profligacy is proved against any person, to the neglect of his family, and of his duties as head of a family, I apprehend the law is sufficient to punish him for that neglect, and I would apply the law in the strictest possible manner to such cases; I beg no mercy for such cases.

6552. Would you commit the man to prison?—I would.

6553. Has

6553. Has Mr. Thompson, of Bradford, changed his opinion upon this law?—He has not, I believe.

6554. Mr. *Hodges.*] You have stated that you have omitted giving any contradiction or explanation in the public papers, of statements that were attributed to you, and which you afterwards found to be untrue?—Yes.

6555. When you applied to be examined before this Committee, did you mention to the Honourable Member who was to bear your request here, that you wished to offer any such explanation here?—I did not.

6556. Was it your intention to offer any here upon those particulars?—It was not; I would say, that I mentioned my wish to offer myself for examination here, in consequence of what I had understood had taken place in evidence, that my name had been mentioned in connexion with the West Riding meeting; and I thought, as the Committee had interrogated one of the witnesses, a neighbour of mine, respecting me, that I should have quite as good an opportunity of answering for myself as he to answer for me; and it was with reference to that particularly that I mentioned my willingness, to the Honourable Member for Oldham, to be examined before this Committee.

6557. Having been aware that those statements which you had made were not true, did it not occur to you that this would have been a very good opportunity, though a tardy one, of offering an explanation, which explanation, being printed, would of course go forth to the public?—I am not satisfied, up to this moment, that those statements are not substantially true.

6558. *Chairman.*] Are you not satisfied, with respect to the dates, in the case of Mary Howes, that it was impossible that that statement could be true, with reference to the union workhouse at Nottingham?—I am satisfied, from what I understood, but only from what I have understood from others, not from any investigation that I have myself made, that there is a mistake in regard to the dates.

6559. Does not that mistake with regard to the dates involve the whole question whether the case could have occurred under the new law or not?—It involves it as to particular parts of the case.

6560. Does it not involve it to this extent, that whereas both Mary Howes and her husband are stated to have been confined in the union workhouse at Nottingham, and that union workhouse was not built till after she had left Nottingham, the case could not have occurred under the new law?—If the dates be correct that is so; but my impression is, that a part of the case, supposing the dates to be correct, did occur under the operation of the new law.

6561. Do you know when the union at Nottingham was formed?—I do not, particularly.

6562. If it should appear that the union at Nottingham was formed in July 1836, and if the whole of this time which she states herself to have passed in the union workhouse at Nottingham took place before July 1836, must not that case be excluded from the operation of this new law?—My impression is, that the whole of that time they were confined in the union workhouse extends into the period when the Nottingham Union was formed.

6563. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you not consider it possible that the woman's dates may be incorrect, and her statement of facts substantially correct?—That is my impression.

6564. Mr. *Fielden.*] Are you aware that before the union of Nottingham was formed the administration of the law in some of the parishes, or in one of the parishes at least, in Nottingham, was managed in a mode similar to the mode under the new law?—I have understood so.

6565. Are you aware that it has been stated in evidence before this Committee by an Assistant-commissioner, who had Nottingham under his charge, that that was the fact?—I was not aware of that; but I saw a letter which was published by a clergyman of Nottingham, I think the rector of St. Mary's parish, his name is Butler, in which I believe a similar statement is made.

6566. The poor woman who gave this information to Mr. Oastler might have been speaking the whole truth as regarded the fact of her suffering and her husband's suffering in the workhouse, though not at the time suffering under the union formed by the new law?—That is my impression.

6567. You have said that you had correspondence with a friend at Nottingham, and that his answer to you was that it was extremely probable that this might have taken place?—Yes.

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6568. Does that not go to confirm your opinion that this which the woman stated must be strictly true, though not coming under the operation of the new law?—That has been my opinion; and under these circumstances, I have withheld from making a public contradiction.

6569. Is it not equally deserving of condemnation, in your opinion, whether it was under the old law or under the new?—Certainly.

6570. *Chairman.*] Do you think it just to attribute it to the operation of the new law rather than of the old?—No, certainly not; but, at the same time, I think it just to condemn the new law for not being what it professes to be, an amendment of the old.

6571. Mr. *Scrope.*] Have you ever read the reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry as to the management of the poor, and the state of the workhouses, under the old law?—I have read several parts of those reports, but I have not had time to go through them, as I could certainly have wished to have done.

6572. Did you ever attempt to excite the people against the old law, and the abuses that were practised under its system?—I have never had those abuses before me in the district where I resided; I am not aware that any such abuses did exist there.

6573. Are you aware that in Manchester, and many other towns in the north, it was continually the practice to refuse relief to a variety of classes of paupers, except upon condition of their entering the workhouse?—I have heard so recently.

6574. And yet you brought forward the severity of that condition as a charge against the new law?—I bring it as a charge against the new law, not only on account of its being the principle of the new law, but because the new law, professing to be an amendment, did not take away those things which I conceive to be unjust in the operation of the old.

6575. Do you know that, under the new law, for one person relieved in the workhouse, there were nearly six relieved out of it?—It may be so, but I also know that it is the expressed intention of the Commissioners, and according to the instructions which they have laid down, ultimately to render that test universal.

6576. You mean with respect to the cases of able-bodied paupers?—I do.

6577. You confine your remark to that?—I do.

6578. You said just now that you always abstained from using violent language yourself, and condemn it in others; did you use this language in your speech of the 1st of February: "The rate-payers of England have not chosen these three despotic men to manage their affairs; we will not have three kings to reign over us. Sir, there is in this Act a spirit of malignity which distresses me exceedingly; of malignity, of malice, not only towards the living pauper, but even, I say, to the dead. Surely they might be content when they have driven the wretch to his coffin, but their rancour pursues offending poverty till the last clod of earth falls upon his grave;" and then, after exhibiting specimens of what you believed to be the dietary given in the workhouse, you went on to say "Now, Sir, I call this malignity; this is a direct attempt to drive the poor out of existence;" do you not consider that to be violent language?—Not more so than I think the case requires, or else I should not have used it.

6579. Mr. *Fielden.*] Referring you back again to the Nottingham case, what is there to contradict it but Mr. Barnett's written statement?—I believe there is nothing to contradict the facts yet, but the statement of Mr. Barnett.

6580. Is Mr. Barnett the governor of that workhouse?—I have understood so.

6581. Have you any confidence in a written statement, coming from the governors of workhouses, in such cases, where such oppressions have taken place?—I do not feel confidence in the statement of parties accused.

6582. Have not many reports, equally as distressing, been published in many of the newspapers, both London and country papers, where the new Poor Law has been in operation?—I conceive that one can scarcely take up a paper to read, for instance, cases before the London Magistrates, without meeting with many such cases.

6583. But is it not notorious in every part of the West Riding, and in every part of England, that the columns of the newspapers, both whig, radical and tory, teem with great abuses under the new law?—Certainly it is.

6584. *Chairman.*]

6584. *Chairman.*] Is it notorious that those statements are true?—It is notorious that those statements are generally believed to be true.

6585. Have you ever known instances where cases have been investigated, and have been proved to be true?—I have seen some, and I have seen some in which they have been proved to be otherwise; but the very great majority of those which have been stated, as far as I have been informed, have never been contradicted; and when I say that, I would remark, that the Poor Law Commissioners have the advantage of every person who may bring any evidence against the system which they are working; they have the most abundant means at their command of entering into their own defence, far beyond that which individuals have; they have an opportunity of appealing to every quarter of the kingdom, and of making the most inquisitorial investigation into every case that is mentioned; they also certainly have an opportunity, (it is not for me to say that they exercise that opportunity,) of either keeping back or bringing forward any facts which they may think proper.

6586. Mr. *Fielden.*] Are they not also armed, by votes of public money, with the power of carrying out those inquiries where they think proper to introduce them?—I understand they are.

6587. Do not you know that in the estimates a large sum is voted for the support of the establishment in Somerset-house?—I understand so.

6588. Have you seen the reports of that?—Yes.

6589. Being thus armed, and professing to act under an Act of Parliament, and being supported by public money, if discoveries could be made of falsehoods, have they not the means of doing it at once?—They have greater means, perhaps, than was possessed by any body before.

6590. *Chairman.*] You would think the Commissioners right in endeavouring to ascertain the truth of any charges that were made, would you not?—I should.

6591. You thought them so when they addressed a letter to you, requesting you to supply them with the means of instituting inquiries?—They were right in endeavouring to ascertain the truth of any thing that I or any individual had stated; but I conceive that I was also right in declining to bring my case before parties officially implicated.

6592. If the Commissioners were right in endeavouring to ascertain the truth, and you were right in refusing to give them the means of instituting an inquiry, how can you reconcile those two propositions?—I can reconcile them very well; I feel it my duty to give the Committee any information they may require, because I, and parties who may give information, are placed under the protection of the House of Commons; but I declined to go before a tribunal of interested parties, who, I conceived, were implicated, officially at least, and, perhaps, in some cases personally, both the board of guardians, and the board of Commissioners; because both the board of Commissioners and the board of guardians are liable, I apprehend, in case of any violation of their public office, to impeachment or prosecution, and this necessarily implies their being personally interested in the results of the working of that system with which they are connected.

6593. You say that you think the Commissioners exercise their duty in endeavouring to ascertain the truth of any charges that may be made?—Yes; and I think I exercise my duty in declining to go before a tribunal of interested parties.

6594. But if the Commissioners are right in endeavouring to ascertain the truth of any charges that may be made, how would you have them proceed in instituting such an inquiry, if the party making the accusation refuses to give them any means of ascertaining the truth?—It was competent to the Commissioners, if they had thought proper, to address themselves to this Committee, and it was competent to this Committee to have summoned me before them many months ago, if they had thought it necessary, and I should never have declined for one moment to have obeyed the summons; the voluntary offer which I made to appear before them is a proof that I did not wish to conceal any facts with which I am connected. I have nothing to conceal; I am willing to place my conduct, in reference to this matter, before any authorized tribunal like the one which I now appear before.

6595. You think the Commissioners right in endeavouring to ascertain the truth, and you think yourself right in refusing to give them the means of ascertaining it?—I think myself right in refusing to submit myself to parties obviously interested; this Committee, I should conceive, is not interested.

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6596. If you were accused of murder, or any crime, publicly, in a newspaper, and you addressed yourself to the party accusing you, in order to have the means of ascertaining upon what grounds he made the accusation, should you not think it very unreasonable if he refused to give you the means?—I should not think it unreasonable if he declined to commit himself to me in any manner that might prejudice his cause.

6597. Should you think him justified in making a charge against your conduct or character, and then, upon your applying to him, refusing to state the grounds upon which he made the accusation?—I should consider any person justified in refusing to commit himself to any person in any way that might prejudice his own cause.

6598. Mr. *Baines.*] You say you did not wish to go before the Commissioners; did the Commissioners ask you to go before them?—The Commissioners did not ask me to go before them, but I conceived that the inquiries they intended to make would be made by means of the board of guardians, the persons interested in the working of that law.

6599. But it is no reason to say that you supposed that persons would investigate the matter who were connected with them, as an answer to the inquiry why you speak of your having to go before the Commissioners, seeing that the Commissioners never asked you to go before them?—No; but the investigations of the Commissioners were to be conducted by interested parties.

6600. *Chairman.*] How do you know that?—I apprehended that that was the case.

6601. Mr, *Baines.*] Were the guardians of the poor interested parties?—Undoubtedly so; in reference to the character of the law and its working.

6602. Every man and every institution is interested as to his own character, and as to the working of his own affairs or his own system, but they are in no other way interested; they are not paid, they are not stipendiary?—They may not be stipendiary, but those under whose rules and regulations they are obliged to act, are stipendiary.

6603. Is not the government of the country stipendiary, and therefore, if you make that an objection, you might make it an objection to every proceeding that Government might institute; the judges are stipendiary; but if they ask a question in order to elicit a fact under an accusation, and by possibility to redress a grievance, is it not the duty of any person of whom that question is asked, to give to them the means of ascertaining the fact and of redressing the grievance?—In my judgment it was not my duty to give them any such means in regard to the cases stated, and especially that which has been designated one of wilful murder, but which was undoubtedly hypothetically stated by me.

6604. *Chairman.*] But which does not appear in the report to have been stated hypothetically?—It does not appear in the report to have been stated hypothetically; but the speeches of honourable members of both Houses are not always correctly reported, and, therefore, of course the reports of meetings in the country may be expected to be of the same character.

6605. Did you, when you found that it conveyed a positive charge of wilful murder, take any step to contradict it?—It probably did appear, upon the face of the report, to convey that charge, but it did not strike me till it was pointed out to me by this Committee.

6606. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have stated that the columns of the newspapers teem with accounts of the numerous oppressions practised on the poor under the Poor Law Bill; if those statements contained in those newspapers were untrue, could not the press be made available to contradict those facts?—Certainly.

6607. And not seeing contradictions appear in the public prints to those exposures which are made, have you not the strongest reason, and have not the people of the West Riding, the strongest reason for believing those facts to be true?—I conceive so: I have noticed some cases in which facts have been disproved, and in which the disproof has been inserted, but the great majority of instances, as far as my knowledge extends, have not been so disproved.

6608. Has not you refusal to communicate with the board at Somerset House, or to give them any information whatever, been followed by General Johnson, the Member for Oldham, so stated by him in a letter, since you were examined the other day?—I have seen that letter in a public paper.

6609. Did

6609. Did he not say that he had refused, and will refuse, to give any answer to the Commissioners at Somerset House, or to the guardians in the union where the death that he spoke of had taken place?—I have seen a letter to that effect.

6610. And General Johnson stated, to his own knowledge, the fact that a man had died in a ditch from the dread and horror that he had of going into the workhouse?—I understood so.

6611. Can you, for a moment, disbelieve the testimony of General Johnson to that fact?—I have no reason to do so.

6612. *Chairman.*] Have you any reason to know that the statement of General Johnson was accurate?—I have as much reason to believe General Johnson as any honourable member of this Committee.

6613. Have you any reason to suppose that General Johnson may not, without any intention to do so, have committed the same inaccuracy as you committed in the case of Mary Howes?—General Johnson is fallible, as other men, and I presume the Poor Law Commissioners are not always infallible.

6614. Mr. *Scrope.*] Supposing the fact to be as General Johnson has stated it, do you not believe that suicides will continue to occur, under the exaggerated impression and alarm which will be produced in the mind of a person whose mind is not in a sound state?—Undoubtedly such cases will occur.

6615. And, supposing statements to be promulgated by the public press of the horrors of being in a workhouse, those statements coming to a person whose mind is not very sound, are they not likely to produce the effect you speak of?—My Bible tells me that oppression is calculated to drive a wise man mad.

6616. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know that General Johnson stated this fact of his own knowledge, that he knew the man, that he knew that he had been wanting food, and that he died of starvation from his horror of the union workhouse?—I understand so.

6617. *Chairman.*] How do you understand it?—From the newspapers.

6618. Mr. *Scrope.*] You stated that you had found many newspaper statements of this kind contradicted afterwards, upon authority?—I have seen some, not many.

6619. Have you, consequently, continued to give your belief to all those statements which are not contradicted?—If they appear to be analogous to other statements which have been authenticated, I have believed them.

6620. What statements have been authenticated of this kind?—I conceive that many statements have been well authenticated; I cannot mention any in particular; I have already read one to this Committee this morning, given by the chaplain of a union workhouse; I conceive that statement refers to the fact that crime was much increased, by the difficulty of the poor obtaining relief, in consequence of the Poor Law Act.

6621. That does not refer to any particular case of hardship?—Although it be not a particular statement, it undoubtedly involves a system that is naturally calculated to lead to individual cases of mischief.

6622. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do not you think that the editors of the newspapers have acted a very justifiable part in exposing the cruelties practised under this new law, in order to prevent greater evils which may arise from the continuance of the law?—I certainly do, and I felt myself justified in making those statements with the same view; I can have had no private interest to serve in the matter; it has not been for my individual advantage that I have taken any part against this measure.

6623. Have not the public meetings that have been held in Yorkshire been held for the purpose of getting up petitions to the House, and making representations of the feeling that prevails in the north, in order to prevent the public being plunged into confusion by the introduction of the new Poor Law?—I can truly affirm that one principal object that I have had in taking part in this matter has been to prevent those evils which I believe undoubtedly will result from a perseverance in the system to which I have alluded; and I have no hesitation in saying, that, as far as I am acquainted with those persons who have made those public manifestations, or who have assisted them, their view has been precisely that which has been stated to induce the legislature by constitutional means to alter its course.

6624. And you have taken this part in those public meetings, and in your writings, consistently, as you think, with your office as a minister of the established church of England?—I certainly think I am justified in taking a part in

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any thing that has reference to the good and to the interests of the poor; I recollect that when I was introduced into my office by the ordination of the bishop, I was commanded to take especial care for the poor; it is a part of the question proposed to me when I enter upon my office, or it is a part of the charge given to me, that "where provision is so made, I should search for the sick, poor and impotent people of the parish, to intimate their estates, names and places where they dwell, to the curate or presiding minister, that by his exhortation they may be relieved with the alms of the parishioners or otherwise," and I find also that when a bishop is consecrated from among the ranks of the inferior clergy, he is asked this question, "Will you show yourself gentle, and be merciful, for Christ's sake, to the poor and needy people, and to all strangers destitute of help?" and he solemnly pledges himself to do so. I also find that I am called upon in the exercise of my office to lead the congregation in praying "for all that are desolate and *oppressed*," and I am also accustomed to pray for the legislature, "that all things may be so ordered and settled by their endeavours upon the best and surest foundation, that peace and happiness, truth and *justice*, religion and piety may be established among us;" and I should certainly think that I was not acting consistently if I should take those vows and offer those prayers publicly, and yet neglect on suitable occasions to plead the cause of the poor where I think they are oppressed.

6625. Would you not have considered yourself guilty of a gross dereliction of duty, if you had not taken the part you have done in exposing the Poor Law?—It occurs to me at this moment that I should be condemned by those very Scriptures which I read to the people, and which state, that "he who shutteth his ears to the cry of the poor, shall cry himself and not be heard."

6626. You say it is to the workhouse as the test of destitution for able-bodied persons you are opposed, that is, to the principle you are opposed?—I am.

6627. You have already stated that you are opposed to it, in consequence of the classification that takes place in the workhouses, the separation of children from parents, and parents from each other?—I am decidedly; I have stated that.

6628. And you still think that you ought to discourage any attempts that are made by any law to undo that which you are commanded to do, as a minister of the church of England?—Undoubtedly, it is only consistent that I should do so.

6629. You have spoken of the guardians; the guardians, you are aware, are constituted by the rate-payers, but the rate-payers have a plurality of votes, and they have the power also of giving votes by proxy; are not you aware that that is a practice contrary to that which prevailed under the old law, a very objectionable practice, and thought to be so in the north?—I am aware that it is contrary to the practice under the old law; I conceive it to be objectionable, because many instances may occur in which a few individuals may entirely sway the whole community of rate-payers amongst whom they live.

6630. *Chairman.*] You say that it is contrary to the practice under the old law; are you acquainted with the provisions of what is commonly called Sturges Bourne's Select Vestry Act?—Under the Select Vestry Act, so far as I have had an opportunity of knowing, no such practice existed.

6631. Are you aware that in that respect the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act follow the provisions of the Select Vestry Act, in reference to the plurality of votes?—Not in reference to proxies; and I refer particularly to proxies, because by plurality of votes, in connexion with proxies, individuals may be able to sway a whole community.

6632. Mr. *Fielden.*] Are you aware whether at the vestry meetings held for the appointment of overseers in the north, the common practice is for each rate-payer to give one vote, and no more?—I am aware, or at least my impression is, respecting the Select Vestry Act, that there was a plurality of votes, but that proxies were not admitted.

6633. Are you aware that the practice which prevails in the north, does not bring into exercise the plurality of votes?—I have never heard of it being practised, but I have understood that the power did exist.

6634. Have you reason to believe that in the appointment of overseers at Bradford, when a vestry meeting takes place, every rate-payer does give one vote, and no more?—I have never known it otherwise.

6635. Had a practice at variance with that been adopted, would it have been so notorious that it must have come to your knowledge?—I think I should have known it.

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6636. Is it not the wish of persons in the north that the practice of confining the rate-payers to one vote should be continued?—I have no hesitation in saying that I have heard that wish very frequently expressed.

6637. Has not the poor rate-payer an interest in keeping down the rates as low as they ought to be, as much as the rich man?—I conceive that every person is interested according to the amount of his property.

6638. Does not the same feeling prevail in the minds of the poor, to afford that assistance which they can, by paying the rates, so long as they are allowed to have the management of their own affairs in their own hands?—I think so.

6639. Then the difference between the constitution of a board of guardians and the constitution of the overseers of the poor in the north is this, that in one case a plurality of votes and proxies are exercised, and in the other case individual voting only is resorted to?—I believe that to be the case; my answer refers to my observations in Bradford particularly.

6640. Is there not another difference between those two administrators of the law, that the guardians elected act under the control of the Poor Law Commissioners of Somerset House, whereas those who elect their own churchwardens act under the influence of the rate-payers only?—Undoubtedly; I consider that to be a most objectionable part of the present Act, taking from the rate-payers their control over the expenditure.

6641. Are not the guardians liable at all times to be required to act in conformity with the instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners?—They are not only required to do so, but, if I understand the Act, they are liable to punishment if they do not; any disobedience or contempt of the orders of the Poor Law Commissioners may be punished by fine; and on that subject I would observe that it appears to me to be, in reference to its character as a mulct upon offenders, unprecedented; for the third offence may be punished, as I understand it, to an indefinite extent.

6642. Does not the 98th section of the Act give the power to punish disobedience to the rules, orders and regulations of the Commissioners of Somerset House?—It does; and for the third offence it is there stated, "that he shall, on conviction, pay such fine, not being less than 20*l.*;" how much more is not stated; it may be the confiscation of a man's entire property, "and suffer such imprisonment, with or without hard labour, as may be awarded against him by the court by or before which he shall be tried and convicted of disobedience to the orders and regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners."

6643. Mr. *Baines.*] What sort of orders and regulations?—"Any of the rules orders or regulations of the said Commissioners or Assistant-commissioners, or be guilty of any contempt of the said Commissioners sitting as a board."

6644. That must apply to somebody under their control; it would not apply to you or to me, would it?—I apprehend it would apply to any person; it strikes me that it is a most arbitrary and sweeping clause.

6445. Mr. *Fielden.*] Does not that constitute one very formidable and often-put-forward strong objection to give up to those Commissioners the control of the parochial affairs in the district where you reside?—It does, and when we see them armed with such powers I think it ought not to be a matter of surprise that we in the north should call them either kings or despots.

6646. Mr. *Scrope.*] Have you known any instance in which that power has been enforced?—I am not aware of any instance in which it has been enforced, but I do know that when a law is in existence it may be enforced at any time; like the loaded barrel, it may not go off to-day or to-morrow, but if it be loaded and primed it may go off at any time; and I would state, in illustration of this, that a statute existed that very few persons seemed to be aware of, and which was applied to the transportation of certain labourers from the neighbourhood of Dorchester; and, although they were poor men, their liberty was as precious to them as that of any rich man in the land; I conceive, therefore, that the existence of statutes like these, whether they be applied or not, is a dangerous and unconstitutional thing.

6647. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you think if the Poor Law Commissioners had ordered you to answer their questions as to the persons whom you mentioned at the public meeting, and you had refused to answer their questions, that they would have been able to have sent you to gaol, or to have punished you by 20*l.* fine?—For the first offence they could have fined me 5*l.*; for the second offence, any sum not exceeding 20*l.*, or less than 5*l.*; and for the third offence, and every subsequent offence, I was "liable to be indicted for the same, and to pay such fine, not being less than

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20*l.*, and suffer such imprisonment, with or without hard labour, as might be awarded against me by the court by or before which" I should be tried and convicted; and if that court had happened to consist of persons greatly enamoured with the new Poor Law, and greatly embittered against its opponents, I should have stood a poor chance.

6648. Have you not omitted an important ingredient in your answer, when you say, tried and convicted; what could they have tried and convicted you for; does it not imply that there must have been a crime, and a crime known to the law; would your refusing to answer an inquiry, as to where you obtained your information with respect to the cripple at Bradford, have been a crime that you could have been tried and convicted for?—The crime is, "wilfully to neglect or disobey any of the rules, orders or regulations of the said Commissioners," and they might make rule, order or regulation that I should answer such and such inquiries.

6649. Mr. *Scrope.*] All this depends upon your own construction of the law, and you have never heard that that construction has been supported in any court of law, or practically acted upon by the Commissioners?—I have not, and I conceive if ever it be practically acted upon, all England will rise up against it.

6650. Mr. *Fielden.*] You are not aware, and you do not believe, that any rule, order or regulation has been made for bringing Mr. Bull before the Commissioners at Somerset House?—I do not.

6651. If such an order had been made, have you any doubt that you would have been called up?—Not the least; I have shown the Commissioners at Somerset House no quarter, and I am sure they would have shown me none.

6652. *Chairman.*] With regard to the powers given by the Commissioners, they are limited to the relief of the poor, they have no power over any body else?—I conceive that, under this clause, any person standing in the way of their rules, orders and regulations, is liable to the fines here mentioned.

6653. No person could wilfully disobey the orders or regulations of the Commissioners unless he was employed upon the business of that regulation; for instance, in making a speech at Bradford, you are not under their orders?—I am not; but at the same time I conceive, that if it should be proved that the construction just put upon the clause be correct, it is still, towards those who are employed officially in the administration of the law, a most arbitrary clause.

6654. Mr. *Fielden.*] Under Sturges Bourne's Act owners of property could not vote at the appointments of churchwardens or overseers; are you aware of that?—I should rather wish not to answer questions on this subject further than what has passed immediately under my own observation; I have not attended regularly parish vestries; I have sometimes gone for the purpose of representing the cases of poor persons, and I have a general knowledge of the manner in which the business was conducted in our own neighbourhood; but as regards any intimate acquaintance with Sturges Bourne's Act on the point alluded to, I cannot speak.

6655. Such was the law under Sturges Bourne's Act, that owners could not vote, whereas under the new law owners of property can vote as well as occupiers?—Undoubtedly.

6656. And that is another distinction, giving a power in the appointment of guardians, which you think is unfair?—I do; I judge of the law as I find it in this Act, upon the common-sense interpretation of it.

6657. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do you act as a magistrate?—No.

6658. Did you take any active part in the administration of the old law?—I did not; I attended occasionally for the purpose of representing the cases of the poor under my own observation.

6659. Have you a general knowledge of the practice of the old law?—According to what I have already experienced in my own neighbourhood.

6660. Are you rated to the poor?—Yes.

6661. In the last day of your examination you spoke of the distress at Bradford; have there been times of particular distress at Bradford during the last 12 years prior to the new law?—Yes, there have; it is not an uncommon thing in manufacturing districts for such seasons of distress to occur; the slack times, I am sorry to say, are sadly too many.

6662. Can you inform the Committee how those times of distress were met, under the old law?—On a former occasion, when a slack time of trade occurred, I have understood that the cases of distress were met partly by the relief of the poor in the regular way, and partly by voluntary subscriptions; I mean in reference to the distress of 1826.

6663. After

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6663. After the distress ceased, did all or the far greater part of those who had been assisted again maintain themselves by their wages?—I believe so.

6664. How did the operatives of that district, with large families, maintain them without parochial assistance?—Operatives with large families, I apprehend, were frequently obliged to obtain parochial assistance.

6665. *Chairman.*] At Bradford?—Yes; the largeness of a family in the manufacturing districts may sometimes be an advantage to a person; but when children are under a certain age a small family is more burthensome than a large one.

6666. Mr. *Hodges.*] Was it the custom for families, under those circumstances, that were too small to contribute to the family fund, to be assisted by the parish rates?—I have known several such instances; but I wish to do the people of that district the justice to say, from the very general and intimate acquaintance which I have with their affairs in regard to the economy of their cottages, that they are, generally speaking, very unwilling to apply to the parochial rates; and I have known many instances in which they have suffered long and severely, rather than make any application (previous to the introduction of this law) to the poor-rates.

6667. During those times of distress, did any increase to the number of your police, which you state to be five or six, take place?—I believe not.

6668. Did any disturbances accompany those times of distress?—I have never known, as I stated before, any instances of public disturbance during the whole of the last 12 years, excepting those which recently occurred.

6669. When you state that if the manufacturing districts were exempted from the new law, the dislike would still continue, because from other places labourers would be flocking in, and thereby overstock the labour market, is it your opinion that the necessary effect of the new law would be to reduce instead of increase the wages in the manufacturing districts?—I have no doubt that that will be the necessary effect; if the market of labour be overstocked, the price of labour must necessarily fall.

6670. Mr. *Baines.*] Would not the effect of that be, in the districts from which the labourers were brought, to advance the wages; because if bringing 100 labourers from one neighbourhood would overstock the market of labour in the place to which they came, would not the taking them from that neighbourhood reduce the quantity of competition in that market?—I should be most happy to learn that such had been the effect, but I have yet to learn that such has been the effect; and I conceive that an opportunity is afforded by the workhouse test of keeping down wages in agricultural districts to a very great extent, inasmuch as the men will accept, in many cases, of almost any wages rather than submit to that test.

6671. *Chairman.*] Have you known an instance in which that has occurred?—I have not; but I argue from the facts of the case, and what I conceive to be the consequences.

6672. Mr. *Baines.*] But you speak upon the general principles of overstocking the market of labour, and of the consequence of that being a depreciation of wages in one district; upon your own principle, in the district from which you withdraw the labourers, would not the consequence be to advance wages?—In the absence of any other circumstances to prevent it, undoubtedly I should apprehend that that would be the effect; but I have been a little in agricultural districts lately, and I have not heard that wages have advanced; but considered with the price of provisions, I should rather say that the power of the agricultural labourers, as far as I have had an opportunity of asking the question, over the necessaries of life in those agricultural districts where the Poor Law is established, has diminished and not increased.

6673. Mr. *Scrope.*] Are not the manufacturing districts of the north of England continually subject to the influx of large bodies of Irish emigrants, to a degree compared with which the English migrants, removed under the regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners, would be but a drop of water to the ocean, in their effect upon wages?—I apprehend that the effect of the Irish population which flows in upon us upon wages is unhappy; it deteriorates wages, but it should be considered that the Irish who come in amongst us, in many instances, turn their attention, and in the great majority of cases turn their attention, to another kind of labour, namely to that of attending upon masons, and in fact some of the lowest employments are assigned to the Irish; but there are but few, comparatively, of the Irish who turn their attention to manufactures.

6674. You are not aware that a considerable proportion of the hand-loom

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weavers in the manufacturing districts consist of Irish, and that many of them are employed in the factories?—I do know that many are employed in the factories; but I am speaking of the proportion; I should say the great proportion is not so employed.

6675. But the number so employed bears a great proportion to the number of emigrants from the south?—It has done, up to the period of the establishment of the Poor Law, but I conceive that as that law is now introduced into the manufacturing districts that proportion will considerably decrease in reference to the Irish, and increase in reference to the English.

6676. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you know what number of Irish labourers employed in the manufactures of Manchester there are in that town?—I am not acquainted with Manchester.

6677. Or in Leeds?—I am not acquainted with Leeds, but I have understood that there are more at Leeds than there are at Bradford.

6678. Mr. *Fielden.*] Are you aware that the hands that are required in the north, if there be any, are children and not adults?—I am a judge of that, and am forced to be a judge of that, because the children necessarily come under my superintendence and care, as a religious and literary instructor of the poor. I have considerable schools under my own management and supervision, and therefore I must be acquainted with the circumstances of the children, of necessity; and I know, in many cases that have passed under my own observation, that the adults of those families that have come from agricultural districts have found great difficulty in obtaining employment at all, whilst their children have more readily obtained it; that is a necessary effect of a large employment of children in manufacture, and in most of the processes of the worsted manufacture.

6679. Is it not very frequently the case, in consequence of migration into the manufacturing districts, that the heads of families may be wanting employment, although their children may for a time obtain employment?—Yes it is the fact.

6680. And does not that throw the maintenance of the parents upon the children, instead of leaving the parents to maintain the children, as ought to be the case?—It inverts the order of society in that respect.

6681. During those seasons that you have spoken of, of bad trade and consequent distress, does it not often happen that the children are thrown out of employment as well as the parents?—It does.

6682. And does not that increase the suffering of both parents and children to a considerable extent?—Most undoubtedly, because it diminishes the means of subsistence.

6683. Operating at the same time, in consequence of an increased number of individuals being in the labour-market, to reduce the wages of those among whom they have come to live?—Undoubtedly; that is the effect which I have stated.

6684. Notwithstanding this, have not the operatives who have been resident on the spot in the north, received the families coming from the rural districts with great kindness, on account of their poverty?—They have received them with uniform pity and kind attention; I have known several instances in which collections have been made for their relief, whilst at the time they have blamed, in no measured terms, the parties under whose act they had been sent in a state of so much destitution.

6685. That is another strong objection that prevails in the north to a continuance of this new Poor Law under the Poor Law Commissioners?—It is, which induced me to say, that whether it be applied in its provisions to manufacturing districts or not, it will still be objectionable, or, in fact, I should say that it would be better for the working people to apply it at once to those manufacturing districts than to allow its indirect operation upon wages in the manner I have stated; and this leads to an impression upon the minds of the people, that it is an Act intended to promote the reduction of wages.

6686. Mr. *Bolling.*] Do you think it is intended to promote the reduction of wages?—It leads to the impression on our minds that it is an Act intended to promote the reduction of wages.

6687. Mr. *Fielden.*]Are you not aware that there have been correspondents in the north with the Poor Law Commissioners, who have recommended that migrants should be sent from the south, with a view of doing what they called equalizing the wages?—I have not known instances of that.

6688. Such

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6688. Such statements are to be found in the report of the Poor Law Commissioners; and on reference to those, you will see that such is recommended; assuming that this is true, do not you, and do not the inhabitants of the north strongly condemn the practices that prevail in sending labourers from the south to the north, as well as strongly condemn those who recommend such a practice?—Undoubtedly they do; and if it be in the report, as has been stated, I am not surprised at it.

6689. Mr. *Liddell.*] You have thought it your duty to oppose the introduction of this law into the north, not merely from a knowledge of the circumstances which you believe to have occurred in other places, but from an apprehension of its effects and consequences in that country; will you state shortly to the Committee what you apprehend those effects and consequences likely to be?—I cannot at all state what they may be; my apprehensions are of the most alarming description; and allow me to say, that no man ought to desire the peace of that district more than myself; I have the strongest personal reasons for wishing to live among a peaceable people. I am the father of a large family, and therefore I should be committing an act of suicide, in attempting to produce a state of disturbance which would necessarily recoil upon myself; and more especially as I very well know that the madman always flies first at his best friend.

6690. It was a sense of what your feelings must be with regard to the neighbourhood in which you reside, which induced me to ask you the question; and you have stated that you have the very strongest apprehensions of the consequences of the introduction of the law in your neighbourhood?—I have.

6691. Do you think those apprehensions are such as are generally shared by the people at large in the north?—I believe they are; I have heard many persons deprecate it on that very ground, and I would say that it is scarcely possible, in my apprehension, to point out an instance of greater peaceableness and orderliness in the population than that which Bradford presents; in the borough there are 30,000 at least, and in the surrounding district there cannot be less than double that number, all using Bradford as a central point, where they obtain all their goods, and frequently visiting it, and yet we have had no occasion for more than six persons as a police establishment.

6692. Having lived for some time amongst so orderly and well-conducted a population, you have acted a good deal upon the maxim that it is wise to let well alone?—I conceive to let well alone will be to leave the people of the north alone as regards the Poor Law.

6693. Do you think the apprehensions which you have stated to exist among the people of your neighbourhood are in any degree mitigated, at the present moment, compared with what they were some six or nine months ago?—I do not believe they are mitigated; I believe the people of the north thoroughly understand the tendencies of this Act, and are so deeply impressed with its arbitrary character and consequences towards themselves, that I have no reason to believe that their dislike of it will abate, more especially as if it should not be introduced in its more severe form, for it may assume many degrees of severity, if it should not be introduced in its more severe form, it will certainly still operate in the way that I have already stated; and certainly, feeling that to be the case, I have frequently made use of very strong language indeed in reference to my views of it; but I apprehend I have not made use of stronger language than I myself heard used by the chairman of the West Riding quarter sessions a short time since (my Lord Wharncliffe) in which his Lordship stated that if the workhouse test was to be offered, and out-door relief was to be denied, in the manner that he stated, to able bodied persons, *no power on earth*, should ever induce him to take part in putting that law into execution; and if the chairman of the West Riding quarter sessions uses such language, surely I may receive some indulgence for the language which I have used.

6694. When did Lord Wharncliffe make use of that language?—I heard his Lordship use that language in the House of Lords.

6695. Mr. *Scrope.*] Then the apprehensions which you entertain of the introduction of the new Poor Law into the north of England are grounded upon the notion that it will alter the character of the population of that district, and change them from a contented, and peaceable, and industrious population, to a discontented and turbulent one?—I believe so.

6696. Are you aware that strong evidence has been produced from the south

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of England, in which the new Poor Law has been in operation for two or three years, showing that its effects have been to alter the character of the population very materially, and to change them from a turbulent and discontented population to an industrious, and peaceable, and contented one?—I have read that they are now very submissive, and I am not surprised at it; but the inhabitants of the rural districts cannot assemble their 5,000 or 10,000 at half an hour's notice, as the inhabitants of the manufacturing districts can; they cannot meet, as the inhabitants of the manufacturing districts can, in large numbers, producing a great effect upon the legislature; and I apprehend they are afraid to petition Parliament, even if they were so disposed. I am not surprised at the statements that are made, considering the quarters from which those statements come.

6697. Still, making allowance for the different circumstances under which the different classes of the north and south are placed, as to their power of exhibiting discontent with any state of the law, you have heard, and you have no reason to disbelieve the fact, that the change has produced in the south, an orderly, and contented, and peaceable behaviour among the population, instead of a disorderly one, which it formerly was?—I have heard what the honourable member stated; but I think I have also heard and read of the feeling amongst a large proportion of them that lies smouldering, underneath.

6698. Have you heard that in some newspaper report?—It was so stated by a witness before this Committee.

6699. Mr. *Liddell.*] Have you not heard that the state of that population in the south was, before the introduction of the new Poor Law, a state of great distress and demoralization?—I have; and I have no doubt that the administration of the old law, or, rather, I should say, the mal-administration of it, tended directly to produce those effects.

6700. In what respects?—The mal-administration that I refer to, was the neglect of the overseers and churchwardens and the magistrates to perform their duty, and their suffering themselves in many cases to depart from the intentions of the law; I conceive that very unfortunate results have occurred in consequence which required most unsparing correction; nor am I prepared, nor do I wish in any respect, to defend any abuses of the old system, any more than I will defend the arbitrary provisions of the new.

6701. Such abuses and such mal-administration as you allude to had never occurred under the old law in your neighbourhood, or in that part of the north with which you are cognizant?—Certainly not, but then I was a native of the south, and did reside in Essex and Suffolk a considerable portion of my life, and am not unacquainted with the operation of the old Poor Law in those districts.

6702. As the Poor Law was better administered in those districts of the north to which you have alluded, the evil consequences which resulted in the south were not apparent in the northern districts?—Certainly not, and from thence I argue, that, if the same means had been used the same effects would have followed; nor can I conceive that mal-administration of the law can be urged as a reason for altering the whole principle of the law.

6703. While you admit that such evils resulted from the mal-administration of the old law, in parts of England, as required severe measures to correct them, you think that such measures are not applicable to the north, to which you have particularly alluded?—Certainly, and I think that the evils in the south might have been remedied without the application of those principles of the new law which are now in operation.

6704. And you consider, therefore, that individuals and the people at large, are justified in expressing strong reasons of opposition, and entertaining strong feelings of resistance towards the law, which you consider severe and somewhat despotic and arbitrary in its enactments, unless the same necessity can be made out to prove that that law ought to be introduced among them?—I think so, certainly.

6705. And it is upon those grounds that you have adopted the course of opposing the law in the manner that you have done upon different occasions?—I have opposed the law chiefly upon these grounds; first, because I conceive that it is contrary to the spirit of Christianity; secondly, because I conceive that it is contrary to the spirit of the free constitution of this country; and, although I may be misunderstood and misapprehended both by honorable members of this Committee, and by many other persons throughout this country, yet I am convinced in my own mind of the most satisfactory motives for the course which I have pursued.

6706. Mr. *Baines.*] You say that the same disposition to resist the new law exists

exists in the north of England that existed some time ago?—The feeling of opposition, I believe, has not abated.

6707. Were there not, three or four months ago, before the new Poor Law was introduced at Bradford, large assemblages of persons which met from time to time for the purpose of resisting the introduction of the law?—And for the purpose of petitioning Parliament against its introduction.

6708. And they met in such bodies as to render it necessary for the constables and military to be brought in amongst them, for the purpose of maintaining the public peace?—Yes, and I would remark, as an illustration of the statement I have made, that I believe the disposition to resist has not abated; that from the time of the West Riding meeting, which was in Whitsuntide, up to the time of those disturbances breaking out on the first occasion, I think the latter end of October, when Mr. Power came; during those months that elapsed I believe not a single meeting had ever been held, nor am I aware that a single paragraph had ever appeared in any way more than in the usual sources of public information, nor had there been any stir made whatever; there had been no agitation whatever from that time up to the time when the disturbance broke out respecting Mr. Power; and I never was more surprised myself than I was on that occasion, for it had been stated by those who were favourable to the law, that the people were acquiescing in it, and that there would be no further disposition to resist its introduction.

6709. Then your answer is, that there were in the month of November some proceedings in the town and neighbourhood of Bradford, by which a considerable number of persons were brought together, and the military was called out in order to maintain the peace?—That was in the end of October, and early in November.

6710. That was before the new law came into operation; since it has come into operation have there been any manifestations of that sort?—Allow me to say that that was at the time of its being first put into operation.

6711. Is there not a manifest difference in the disposition of the people towards the law before it came into operation, and since it came into operation; since it has come into operation has there been any popular assemblage to resist it?—Since the military were there I dare say there have been none, and I do not conceive that any patriot has any reason to exult in that. If the people have been quieted, supposing that to have been the case, by the demonstration of a large body of military, and by the known fact that the London police come down to look at us, *in plain clothes*, I do not apprehend that any man who loves his country has reason to rejoice in such quiescence as that.

6712. My question did not turn upon whether it was a thing that persons would rejoice in or not, but upon the fact, that whereas before the introduction of the law, and upon the eve of its introduction, there had been a great many tumultuous assemblages which required a military force to keep them in subjection, since the time that the law has been in force there has been no assemblage of that sort?—At the time when the military were in Bradford, occupying it as a military post, there was a large public meeting, held in the face of the military, to petition for the repeal of the law; since that time, to the best of my knowledge, there have been no public meetings, except at Clayton and Shipley; and I have heard many persons say, that they do not intend to petition any more, not because their feelings are altered or conciliated, but, I am very sorry to say, because they consider that petitioning is of no use. It has been always my wish to keep up the confidence of the people in the legislature, and to teach them to appeal to them as the proper court or the proper quarter from whence they might look for redress; but I believe it is not in my power, nor in the power of any man, to persuade them to petition again; and I am very sorry that such is the case.

6713. Mr. *Freshfield.*] On the subject of the powers conferred by the 98th section, which you consider unprecedented, are you aware that the Court of Chancery has power to enforce its decrees, or disobedience to its orders, by commitment?—I am.

6714. Are you aware that every court of justice possesses the means of enforcing its orders?—Yes.

6715. Are you aware that the Commissioners of Bankruptcy, an inferior jurisdiction, have the power of commitment of persons for not answering questions?—I was not aware of that.

6716. Are you aware that in all those instances, the courts having the power of commitment, also judge of the facts upon which they commit?—Probably it is so.

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6717. If you refer to the 98th section, you will find that no power is given to the Commissioners to decide; but, "in case any person shall wilfully neglect or disobey any of the rules, orders or regulations of the said Commissioners or Assistant-commissioners, or be guilty of any contempt of the said Commissioners sitting as a board, such person shall upon conviction," not by themselves, but, "before any two justices;" so that any offence charged, must be charged before two magistrates. For the first offence, the magistrates have the power to impose a fine not exceeding 5*l.*; for a second offence they may impose a fine not exceeding 20*l.* or less than 5*l.*; and the third offence becomes a misdemeanor; and then that must be prosecuted by indictment; and all that follows, is the result of conviction by a jury; are you aware of that?—I perceive that it is so; but I conceive at the same time, that, constituted as the whole system of the Poor Law Amendment Act is, it is likely to operate in a prejudicial manner. It appears to me that in the cases referred to by the honourable member there are legal precedents for the conduct of the courts to which he refers, and which they act according to, whenever such cases may be brought before them; but it appears to me that the same precedents do not exist in reference to the Act before us.

6718. Are you aware that it would be open to the party to take the objection before the magistrates, and that he would be, or not, convicted, whether the rule or order was a legal one or not?—I conceive so; and under that I conceive, that a man who should resist a separation from his wife, under the order of the Poor Law Commissioners, would be able to refer to precedents of law; particularly to appeal cases from quarter sessions argued before the Court of Queen's (King's) Bench, by which, if his appeal was duly considered, he would not be convicted. It is my own opinion, though not conversant with the law, from the little that I have examined the subject, that such would be the case, and that the separation of the man from his wife is most distinctly an illegal act, and that precedents may be found in the appeal cases argued before the Court of Queen's (King's) Bench from the quarter sessions, distinctly affirming that opinion; that is my impression.

6719. Mr. *Baines.*] There cannot be many precedents with regard to the Poor Law Commissioners; they have been in existence for only three or four years?—But the attempt to separate a man from his wife existed, as the Committee have already informed me, before the Poor Law Commission existed.

6720. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have been asked about the number assembled at the Bradford meeting, when the law was being put into operation; can you state the number that were assembled at that meeting, when the guardians met for the purpose of introducing the new Poor Law into Bradford?—I cannot, for I was never near the place; I knew nothing whatever of either the intention of the people to meet or of any of the proceedings that took place, except from what I saw in the papers afterwards; I studiously avoided, as soon as I heard that such meeting had assembled, having any thing to do with it.

6721. You have stated, in your former evidence, that had special constables been appointed to strengthen the constables in the town, the matter would have passed off without any disturbance of the public peace?—I have not the least doubt of it.

6722. The military were introduced upon that occasion?—Not on the first occasion, but afterwards.

6723. You have been asked about Irish families being brought into the north instead of migrants from the rural districts; do you know whether there were any Irish families in the town of Bradford, when the military were there?—A large portion of the population of Bradford are Irish.

6724. Were they Irish soldiers that were introduced there principally?—We understood that the regiment of foot, I think the 97th, that came in, was an Irish regiment.

6725. Did that tend to inflame the minds of the people, seeing that they were to be put down by Irish soldiers?—I heard that observation made, that they had sent the Irish to fight for the Poor Law, because they knew the English would not fight for it.

6726. Was that military force considerably increased before the next subsequent meeting took place?—I cannot at the moment charge myself with the precise circumstances, but I believe that it was after that second meeting, which was in November; (the first meeting was in October); that there was a considerable increase of the military.

6727. Are you aware that picquets of soldiers were stationed on the road between

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Huddersfield and Bradford for the purpose of preventing people coming to the Bradford meeting?—Yes, that I am aware of; I saw the military pass by me on the road from my own house, and I understood, from persons resident in other parts, that picquets were placed there.

6728. *Chairman.*] Do you know that they did prevent any one from coming from Huddersfield to Bradford?—No, I cannot say that they did; but that the picquets were placed upon the road.

6729. Do you know the orders that those picquets had?—I do not.

6730. Do you know that they were placed there for the purpose of preventing persons going from Huddersfield to Bradford?—It was understood so; I do not know their orders; and I apprehend no one knew their orders but themselves.

6731. You did not hear it upon authority which led you to believe that it was so?—No, I heard it as a rumour, but the intention was self-evident.

6732. Mr. *Baines.*] Did you hear of any body who was stopped?—No.

6733. Mr. *Fielden.*] On that occasion were there a great number of special constables sworn in to preserve the peace of the town of Bradford?—On the occasion of the third meeting there were.

6734. When the picquets were placed between Huddersfield and Bradford?—Yes.

6735. Did that meeting pass off without any disturbance arising or being manifested by the populace?—Yes; I am speaking now of the third meeting, for the second meeting was a disturbed meeting as well as the first, and the third was perfectly quiet.

6736. Is it your opinion that had the same means been taken to preserve the peace of the town at the second meeting, by the appointment of a sufficient number of special constables, the peace of the town would have been preserved, and no necessity would have existed for introducing military into the town of Bradford?—I most decidedly think so; and I would remark to the Committee, which I think important for the Committee to know, that the military first came into Bradford between 10 and 11 o'clock on the Saturday night; the town was full of people come to market, Saturday-night being their market night; they come to market to Bradford from every part of the surrounding district; the military coming in at that late hour of the night would excite the attention of the whole surrounding district; such was the effect; the Sunday was a very dissipated day; people came down in large numbers to see the soldiers; and I am not at all surprised, considering the hour of the night at which they were introduced, and its being Saturday-night also, that that assemblage took place which there was on the Monday, and which assemblage, I have no doubt, consisted of many persons who came from curiosity to see the military, and the greater part of whom, or all, had considerable irritation of mind against this law.

6737. Is it then the opinion of the people of Bradford, as you believe, and is it your opinion, that the Poor Law has been introduced there by the aid of the London police and the military?—Yes, that is the impression decidedly.

6738. Do you believe that if the people had been left to themselves, and to form their own judgment upon the propriety of introducing that law, it would have been in operation in the town of Bradford?—I believe not.

6739. *Chairman.*] Do you consider, in a change of the law, or in the introduction of any new law, when a law is made intended to apply generally to the whole country, whether it should apply to a particular district or not is to be left to the discretion of that district?—Certainly not; it is my principle, as a constitutional man, that no law ought to be enacted which ought not to be and which is not generally applied; and I would remark that a considerable impression has been produced in the manufacturing districts by a statement, understood to have been made by Lord Althorp, now Earl Spencer, in reference to its non-introduction into the manufacturing districts, which statement was reiterated by the press on every side.

6740. Mr. *Fielden.*] The generality of the people being now quiet in the town of Bradford, under the operation of the new law, does not, to your mind, convey any proof whatever that they are at all satisfied with the new law?—I have said before that it does not.

6741. As to the system of migration, and the operation of that upon wages, I will read a paragraph, to which I referred in a previous part of the examination; In page 344 of the Poor Law Commissioners' Report of 1835, there is a letter from Mr. Edmund Ashworth, and it is dated "Turton, near Bolton, 9th of sixth month 1834,"

Rev. *G. S. Bull.*

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1834," and in the last paragraph, Mr. Ashworth states this, "I am most anxious that every facility be given to the removal of labourers from one country to another, according to the demand for labour; this would have a tendency to equalize wages as well as to prevent, in degree, some of the turn-outs which have been, of late, so prevalent;" if this was generally known in the West Riding of Yorkshire would not the writer of this letter be strongly condemned for having recommended to the Poor Law Commissioners the migration of labourers from the south to the north, for the purpose, as here stated, of equalizing wages?—It would be understood among us that the word "equalizing" meant lowering.

6742. And the same impression prevails still, that its direct operation will be to reduce the wages of those in the town of Bradford?—Undoubtedly.

6743. If the wages of those in the town of Bradford are reduced, will not that affect the owners of property and the landlords, as the owners of cottages, in their ability to obtain the rents in the manner in which they have done?—Of course; if wages are reduced it must necessarily follow that the ability to pay rents will be reduced.

6744. Then the owners of property and rate-payers, and the artisans in Bradford are all interested in keeping this new Poor Law out of Bradford, if that is its operation?—Undoubtedly; and all who wish to live peaceable lives are interested equally with the rest.

6745. Is it your impression, that if the law be persevered in in the north, it will ultimately lead to bloodshed in that district?—I am sorry to say that that is my impression.

6746. And is that the impression of those people with whom you have frequently conversed, and who know well the state of feeling of the people in those districts?—It is; and I would add, that such effects no man on earth can deprecate more earnestly than I do.

6747. You, being a friend of peace, wish to ward off this evil?—Indeed that has been one principal object which I have had in view in my opposition to the new law.

6748. You think it is your duty to take this course, as a Christian minister?—Yes.

6749. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you not consider it very desirable, if there is this inflamatory spirit among the persons in the district, that every body, not applying it to you in particular, in discussing the subject in public assemblages or otherwise, should avoid the use of any inflammatory language that would be likely to light up that spirit that you seem to apprehend may burst out?—Undoubtedly, and I conceive that every expression that is calculated, and every proceeding that is calculated, to undermine feelings of loyalty is exceedingly objectionable, and therefore I frequently have mentioned, and always with regret, that very shameful exhibition we once had at Leeds, which I have referred to before, when we had the Queen put into breeches and the King into petticoats; and we once had a noble lord, in Yorkshire, whose name I hope I shall not be required to mention, who talked of kings' heads rolling in the mire; and if persons in such a situation speak in that way, how can we wonder at the effects which the honourable member deprecates; I do think that if one person is to be blamed for strong language another ought to be.

APPENDIX.

Sir, Bradford, April 5, 1838.

I last night received your note of the 3d instant, with a copy of Mr. Barnett's letter to you of the 31st ultimo, for which I am obliged.

I have no further observations to make at present upon the Nottingham case, except that, referring to the expression used by Mary Howes, "two years last October," I did not understand her to state that this was the date of their going into the workhouse, but only of the beginning of their troubles, that event appearing to have taken place some time after October 1835.

I would also note that the same house, and not a new one, (question 6560) is now used; and the change when the union was formed was scarcely more than nominal at Nottingham, as I have understood.

Mr. Barnett's letter to you does not alter my present impression, as stated in my answers to questions 6452–5 and 6563.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

G. S. Bull.

J. N. Fazakerley, Esq., M.P., &c. &c.

NOTTINGHAM UNION.

Weekly Meeting, Thursday, 8 A.M.

A. Barnett, Clerk.

Sir, March 31, 1838.

In reply to your inquiry, respecting the case of John and Mary Howes, I have to inform you that a denial appeared in the "Times" of Wednesday the 20th December.

The statement itself is pure fiction; no persons of the names of John and Mary Howes have at any time been inmates of the union workhouse, or of the workhouses in Nottingham before the union was formed; no family of any other names, but otherwise answering to the description, have been in the workhouse during the period over which this statement runs; no children answering to the description there given, brothers, have died in the workhouse; in no instance has a young child been separated from the mother, unless with her consent, and only when the mother, through severe illness, has been unable to take care of it. During all the period referred to, parents might, if they chose, see their children two or three times a day, and although husband and wife are separated during the hours of labour and sleep, they were then, and now are, permitted every day to see and converse with each other; in short, the treatment said to have been experienced by John and Mary Howes has not been experienced at any time or by any person or persons within this house.

The detail of circumstances connected with this statement, and evidently intended to give an appearance of genuineness, are untrue. The date fixed for the first admission was before the union, when Mr. Fox had no connexion with the workhouse, and when my office and residence were at a considerable distance; at that time I did not superintend the house.

We have not erected any new building for nursery, consequently there were no damp rooms. The persons named as relations, Bulliphant and Straw, are not to be found in or near Nottingham, and I believe no such persons exist. Some parties connected with the Working Men's Association have used every means in their power to discover the parties, in order to impart authenticity to the statement, but without effect.

Since the formation of this union we have admitted into the workhouse 3,365, and discharged 2,610; four-fifths of these are in and about the town, and if there were any truth in the statement it would be perfectly practicable any day to obtain a host of witnesses in support of it.

I may add, that Mr. Fox wrote to Mr. Bull, either to support or retract the charge, which letter he has not answered.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

A. Barnett.

To J. N. Fazakerley, Esq., M.P.

TWENTY-SECOND REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
30 *March* 1838.

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TWENTY-THIRD

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
3 *April* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

3 *April* 1838.

WITNESS.

Mr. *James Turner*.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Martis, 3° *die Aprilis*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Bolling.	Lord John Russell.
Sir T. Fremantle.	Mr. Scrope.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Walker.
Mr. Hodges.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *James Turner*, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *James Turner*.
3 April 1838.

6750. Mr. *Fielden*.] THE last day you were examined by the Committee you read a tabular statement relative to three labourers, with large families, in Westoning, in the Union of Ampthill; do you wish to make some alterations in that table?—Yes; I found it extremely difficult to get at a tabular statement of this sort, and I wish to be correct; I went down on Saturday, and took the table with me, not only this but a table of all the labourers in the parish, which I am preparing of this description, and read it over to the parties whose names are in it, and any errors that I found I corrected, so that I might be correct. As far as regards rates since the new law was passed, they have to pay rates, but they did not pay rates in the year 1837, and consequently the whole of the figures giving the rates for 1837 will have to be altered; and I would wish to put the table in as amended.

6751. Will you read the statement you have made at the foot of the table before you put it in?—I think I need not go through the whole figures; the foregoing tabular statement shows that in the year 1834, those three labourers, they, their wives and children, numbering together 17 persons, were employed at their occupations collectively 39 weeks, for which employment they received the sum of 23 *l.* 16 *s.* The earnings of the wives and children for the same period amounted to the sum of 26 *l.* 10 *s.*, making together the sum of 50 *l.* 6 *s.* The allowance from the parish for those three families for work and relief, during 1834, amounted to the sum of 44 *l.* 8 *s.*, showing a total income of 94 *l.* 14 *s.* for those 17 persons. The outgoings for rent and fuel amounted to 20 *l.* 14 *s.*, leaving a net income of 74 *l.*, applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries, for those 17 persons an average of 4 *l.* 7 *s.* 0½ *d.* for each, or 1 *s.* 8 *d.* per head per week, the lowest family having only 1 *s.* 3½ *d.*, and the highest 1 *s.* 9½ *d.* per head per week. In 1837 these same three labourers, they, their wives and their children, numbering together 21 persons, were employed at their occupations collectively 142 weeks, and received for wages 65 *l.* 8 *s.*; the earnings of their wives and children were 20 *l.* 16 *s.*, making together, all parish relief being withheld, a total income of 86 *l.* 4 *s.* for those 21 persons. The outgoings for rent and fuel amounted to 20 *l.* 14 *s.*, leaving a net income of 65 *l.* 10 *s.* applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries, for those 21 persons, an average of 3 *l.* 2 *s.* 4½ *d.* for each, or an average of 1 *s.* 2½ *d.* per head per week, the lowest family having only 1 *s.* 1½ *d.*, and the highest 1 *s.* 5 *d.* per head per week. Thus those families, by being thrown on their own resources by the operation of the new Poor Law, have had their means of living reduced in money from 1 *s.* 8 *d.* per head per week in 1834 to 1 *s.* 2¼ *d.* per head per week in 1837, notwithstanding the work of those three men has been increased, as independent labourers, from an aggregate of 39 weeks in 1834 to an aggregate of 142 weeks in 1837. But, take the command that money has over bread in those two years, the condition of those labourers is shown to be still more deteriorated; the average price of wheat being in 1834, 46 *s.* 2 *d.* per quarter, and in 1837, 55 *s.* 9 *d.* per quarter; so that the

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the net income of those three labourers and their families, 17 persons, would buy them 32 quarters of wheat in 1834, being 965 pints for each person, or 18½ pints of wheat per head per week, whereas their net income in 1837, being then 21 persons, would purchase them only 23⅛ quarters of wheat, being 573 pints for each person, or 11 pints of wheat per head per week; that is a reduction of 41 per cent.

6752. *Chairman.*] What number of persons do you say were maintained in 1834 in Odell's family?—In 1834 there were six in family, the man, the wife and four children.

6753. Then the number of his family had increased by one child in 1837?—Yes, there is an increase of one.

6754. What was the age of the eldest of Odell's children in 1834?—Twelve.

6755. It is now, therefore, 16?—Yes.

6756. What was the age of Cox's eldest child in 1834?—Sixteen.

6757. It is now, therefore, 20?—Yes.

6758. Then Cox's eldest child has been for several years, according to the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, above the age at which the father is answerable for its maintenance?—Yes, but I take them as they are; I know, according to the law, the father is not answerable for the maintenance; but I took the whole family living together, what they have coming in, and the number of the family.

6759. But you are aware if there were distress in that family, and they were placed under the necessity of asking for parish relief, that eldest child would be in a situation to make a separate application for herself?—Certainly.

6760. Do you know what the earnings of that eldest child were, either in 1834 or 1837?—Not distinctly; when we asked as to the earnings of those families, we got for answer what they would make a week, putting all together. We generally find that those that are employed in plait, when they have paid for their straw and all that, will earn from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.*

6761. You did not ascertain the separate earnings of the children?—No.

6762. You stated that the earnings of Odell's wife and family were 10*l.* 8*s.* in 1834?—Yes.

6763. And in 1837, that their earnings were the same?—Yes.

6764. In the course of those three or four years that have elapsed would not the children, having grown three or four years older, earn a good deal more?—If they were as well paid in 1837 for their labour as in 1834, they would; but the work at which these families are employed is not so well paid as it was then.

6765. But still, the children being older, you state their earnings on the whole to be the same in 1837 as they were in 1834?—Yes, that is my impression, from all the families that I have visited.

6766. Confine yourself to Odell's family; you state their earnings in 1834 as in 1837?—Yes.

6767. With regard to Cox's family, you say in 1834 they earned 16*l.* 2*s.*, and in 1837 they earned 10*l.* 8*s.*, look to your amended statement, and see if you state the earnings of Odell's family to be the same in 1837 as in 1834, and whether in Cox's family the earnings are in 1834, 16*l.* 2*s.*, and in 1837, 10*l.* 8*s.*?—I find Cox's family is 16*l.* 2*s.* in 1834, and in 1837, 10*l.* 8*s.*

6768. You state that the price of straw-plait has diminished; you state that Odell's family earned in 1837 only the same sum that they earned in 1834, and you attribute their having earned no more, in spite of the increased growth of the children to the fall in the price of the work which they do; now, with regard to Cox's family, you state that they earned 16*l.* 2*s.* in 1834, and only 10*l.* 8*s.* in 1837; how do you explain the fact that Odell's family earned the same in 1837 as in 1834, and Cox's family earned 5*l.* 14*s.* less?—I will explain it; the eldest of Cox's family is a boy; in 1834 he is included with the earnings of the family.

6769. Making the earnings therefore amount to 16*l.* 2*s.*?—Yes; then in 1837 I take him from the family, and put him into the table of labourers as a labourer himself.

6770. Then the number of Cox's family has not increased?—Yes, they had had two little children in the time between 1834 and 1837, either two or three; but the eldest boy of Cox's has gone out; he is 20 years of age, and I put him down in my table of labourers as a labourer.

6771. Does he live with the family?—He does, but he pays his mother so much a week.

6772. The eldest boy at Cox's is out at work?—Yes.

6773. He was not out at work in 1834?—In 1834 he was numbered with the rest of the children, he being 16 years of age.

6774. And his earnings were included in the 16 *l.* 2 *s.*?—Yes.

6775. What does he now earn?—Seven shillings a week.

6776. He resides with his father?—Yes.

6777. Mr. *Fielden.*] In the number of the family that boy is not counted?—Not in the latter instance.

6778. *Chairman.*] Do you know what he pays his mother?—I do not; when they used to say to us, "Such an one we have nothing to do with; they pay us so much; we did not often ask them how much; but his earnings are 7 *s.* a week."

6779. Mr. *Fielden.*] You observe in that table a great falling off in the income of those three labourers, in their command of the necessaries of life?—I do, a very great falling off.

6780. Are you of opinion that the other labourers in the parish of Westoning will be pretty nearly on a par with those labourers, whose circumstances you have represented?—I believe those labourers were not chosen out as being peculiar from the other labourers; I believe they will be a very fair criterion of the labourers in that parish.

6781. Any trifling difference that may appear, will not, in your opinion, show a very different result?—I do not believe it will; there may be a trifling difference according to the situation of families, but I believe upon the whole the result will be somewhere near what these are.

6782. Are you of opinion that the same state of things will be found to exist amongst the labourers in the Union of Ampthill generally?—With the exception of about three or four parishes, I think these may be taken as a fair sample of all the rest.

6783. There were labourers in the parish of Westoning, and I suppose in other parishes as well, that were constantly employed in 1834, and constantly employed in 1837?—There were.

6784. But these three labourers, that you have given in a tabular statement of, were only partially employed in 1834, and only partially employed in 1837?—They were.

6785. Mr. *Hodges.*] Did you find that, in the parishes which you visited, the condition of the labouring class has been rendered worse, owing to the depressed state of the straw-plait business?—They are worse off on that account; but there seems to be a general decline in all their circumstances.

6786. Did you learn that it was likely to be a temporary or probably, a permanent depression in their trade?—It does not appear as if it were temporary, from all the information that I can gather.

6787. Mr. *Fielden.*] That table applies to those that were not constantly employed in either year?—Two of those labourers had 52 weeks' employment in 1837, but they had not constant employment in 1834.

6788. Then, the representation made in that table will be, as you believe, a pretty correct representation of those who were partially employed in 1834, and partially employed in 1837?—I believe it is, as far as it is possible for any man to get at the truth; I have taken great pains with it.

6789. Does the number of those in the Ampthill Union, who have not had constant employment, considerably exceed those who have had constant employment in both those years?—It does considerably.

6790. You will hereafter be prepared with a statement of those who had constant employment in both years?—Yes; I have a table of those who had constant work in 1834 and in 1837; I have made them separately from those casually employed, and I shall be able to lay both tables before the Committee.

6791. Seeing this falling off in their means of procuring subsistence, you are not surprised that you have found very severe distress existing among those families?—Not at all.

6792. You gave an instance, in your evidence the other day, of a poor woman who had died, owing, as it was thought, to medical relief not being afforded her in sufficient time?—That was the opinion of all the people in the neighbourhood where the circumstance happened, that if she had had medical relief earlier it would have been better; whether she would have died if she had had medical

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relief earlier I am not prepared to say; but that she had not medical relief early, and that she did die, those two facts I am prepared to prove.

6793. *Chairman.*] Do you know the wages that the husband of that woman was receiving?—I do; it was at the close of the harvest-month; he had had for that harvest-month 3*l.* 15*s.*; he was not regularly employed; he had been out of work previous to harvest for a very considerable time, but he had been having the harvest-month; he was behind with his rent, and his wife was very anxious that he should pay the rent, for they were threatened to have their little furniture taken away for rent, if they did not pay it; and with his harvest-money they paid the rent; that happened a few days before she was confined, and the day she was confined she had nothing in the house but a bit of bread.

6794. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you any more cases of individual suffering, which you wish to state to the Committee, that you have been made acquainted with during your survey in the Ampthill Union?—I have; and in the letter which I published in the "Northern Star," and which the Chairman read to me the other day, I mentioned the case of a woman having lost her life under very distressing circumstances; I published that letter for the purpose of calling the attention of the public to the fact; the Commissioners at Somerset House copied the letter, and sent it down to the boards of guardians of Ampthill, Woburn and Bedford, with a request that they would inquire into the truth of the statements made in that letter; to this day the truth has never been inquired into, for I have never been officially asked for the name of that individual; I did not publish the name in that letter.

6795. Will you give the name of the woman whom you are alluding to?—I will; her name is Ruth Cole.

6796. This is the paragraph to which you allude, "One poor woman, near to where I am, was confined some time ago; inflammation ensued; the officers of the union were applied to, but there was such a number of individuals to be seen before she could have any medical relief that at last a gentleman sent for a doctor at his own expense, but too late; the poor woman died a victim to the ill-working system; this fact I had from the vicar of the parish?"—That is the paragraph.

6797. Will you state the facts, from the information that you received, relative to Ruth Cole?—Ruth Cole had been in a very poor way during the time that she was with child; she was confined on Friday morning at three o'clock; for several hours after she was confined she was found to be going on as well or better than any of them could have anticipated, considering what she had undergone before; about 11 o'clock in the forenoon, she was seized with very violent pains, so much so, that no one scarcely could bear to be near her, her sufferings were so great; this man, his wife having been poorly so long, and he having two children, though he was in work, had no money to get a doctor; they applied to an overseer whose name is Phillips (and in whose house I was on Sunday last) for a doctor; he said he could not give one himself, but he would go with them to a farmer, a very worthy man in the parish (if it is necessary I will give his name), and he gave him a note to go to the relieving officer, a distance of nearly three miles; it is better than two miles and a half to Ampthill from this Steppingley parish; when they got there they had to wait for the relieving officer about two hours; the husband told him the situation in which she was; he would not order her a doctor at all; the husband went back again, and her pain was increasing, and she begged of them, her expression was, "For God's sake do get me a doctor, or I shall die." They went again to the same gentleman, and he saw the case was such that he sent the man to Ampthill again for the doctor, and said that he would pay him; the doctor came that evening, about nine o'clock at night, but she died at three o'clock the next morning.

6798. Mr. *Liddell.*] At what hour was the doctor first sent for?—The husband went about 12 o'clock in the day, but he did not see the relieving officer till about three in the afternoon.

6799. *Chairman.*] Was this labourer in employment at the time?—He was.

6800. Do you know what wages he was earning?—Either 8*s.* or 9*s.*, I am not sure which.

6801. What family had he?—Two children.

6802. The wife was taken seriously ill?—She had been very unwell during the time of her child-bearing.

6803. Would it not be the practice, generally, that a man so circumstanced would provide his own medical attendance?—Under the old law this man would have had a doctor.

6804. As

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6804. As you were informed?—As I was informed, and as I believe.

6805. The man applied to the overseer?—Yes.

6806. And the overseer told him that he could not give him an order?—Yes.

6807. Do you know that the overseer has positive instructions to give orders in urgent cases which require it?—I do know it, but the overseers do not know it themselves.

6808. Are you aware that a circular letter has been sent to all the overseers in the Ampthill Union, instructing them upon that point?—He told me that he did not know that he had the power; but the reason for his not relieving was, that he had relieved a person, under some circumstances which I am not in a condition to speak to, a few weeks before, and had the money to pay out of his own pocket; it, therefore, made him cautious about giving an order.

6809. Are you aware that a circular printed letter is sent to every parish in the Ampthill Union, desiring the overseers to give medical orders in cases where they are required?—I believe such orders have been given.

6810. Had this overseer received any such order?—I do not know; but when I asked him about this, on Sunday last, this was his explanation.

6811. The overseer directed the man to a farmer?—He went with him himself to the farmer.

6812. What authority had the farmer?—He was a man very much respected in that neighbourhood, and a large rate-payer, and he thought if this farmer gave an order it would be more attended to.

6813. Mr. *Scrope.*] You say, under the old law a doctor would have been allowed; who would have allowed that doctor,—the overseer?—In most cases they gave the doctor so much to attend to the poor cases in the parish, and he attended the cases that he was ordered by the overseer; and the overseer seeing this was a case of necessity, would have given an order, for he went with the man to get one.

6814. Therefore, under the old law, it would have been the same person who had the power of ordering medical attendance who in this case refused to give an order?—Because he did not believe that he had the power to do so, and he was afraid of getting into difficulties, and in order to escape that, he went with the man to this farmer, the largest rate-payer in the parish.

6815. But you know that the overseer has the same power, under the new law, of exercising a discretion, as he had under the old?—I know that, but I do not believe he knows it.

6816. Is it not his duty to know it?—It is; but I am prepared with instances in which overseers have given orders, and they have not been attended to; not in that parish, but in that union.

6817. This was not a case of that kind?—It was not

6818. Mr. *Fielden.*] But the overseer having before given relief, without having been refunded for such relief, it made him cautious in this instance of giving any order?—I have a statement that that was the reason why he did not do so.

6819. *Chairman.*] You state that Ruth Cole's husband was in work at the time?—Yes, he had 8*s.* or 9*s.* a week.

6820. Do you know that he had two or three sons at work also?—It would be rather curious if he had, for he is about 27 years of age.

6821. What age was his wife?—About the same age; this was her second child, and during the time that she had been with child she had suffered a great deal, and it made him that he was not in a condition to get a doctor in this case of extremity.

6822. Mr. *Wakley.*] How soon did she die after her delivery?—Twenty-four hours.

6823. She had no medical man?—The medical man's assistant came at nine o'clock at night, but the rate-payer, to whom I alluded, paid the doctor; he did not come as from the parish, nor is the case entered in the parish books.

6824. So that the assistant of the medical practitioner saw her for the first time six hours before she died?—That is my information.

6825. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you any doubt that the relieving officer when applied to for medical relief for this poor woman, refused to give it?—I am sure that he refused it, at least, I am sure that the husband told me so, so late as Sunday last.

6826. If the overseer could have given relief to this poor woman, could not the relieving officer have done so likewise?—Certainly he could.

 6827. But

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6827. But the relieving officer neglected the application, and turned a deaf ear to the application both of the farmer and the husband of the woman, and the overseer?—He did.

6828. *Chairman.*] By saying that he neglected the application, do you mean that the relieving officer took no notice, or that, the case being explained to him, he said it was not a case in which he would be justified in giving relief?—I mean that when the application was made to him, when a note was carried to him from this gentleman, he would not attend to it, and he did not attend to it; he neglected or refused, if refused will do better, to give an order.

6829. Are all the labourers who are in employment, and in receipt of the ordinary wages of the district, in the habit of having medical relief paid for them or not?—I do not know.

6830. Do you know whether it was the case in 1834 that the labourer, whatever might be his earnings and the state of his circumstances, received medical relief?—That is my information, that if they were poor, and could not get a doctor themselves, they had one from the parish.

6831. What line was drawn in 1834 between those who were entitled to medical relief, and those who were not?—I am not able to answer that question; but it was in reference to that, and other circumstances that I stated, that, let a man have a sick wife and sick children, he will have no relief.

6832. You cannot say what line was drawn in 1834?—No, I cannot; only those people say that if it had been before this new law was passed, they should have had a doctor.

6833. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know whether the man was in full employment at the time, and had been for some time back?—I believe he had been some months, but I am not sure how long; but that he was in full employment, at either 8*s.* or 9*s.*, I will not say which.

6834. You have now made out two cases of the deaths of women in childbed, and you believe that the information you have received relative to those cases is true?—I have no doubt of the truth of what I have stated.

6835. Have you any other cases of hardship in the Ampthill Union, which you wish to bring before this Committee?—I have a great many. In the same parish, Steppingley, there is a woman of the name of Susan Bunker, a widow, 40 years of age; she had two boys, one was aged 15, the other 11; this woman makes lace; her eyes are very bad; and at lace-making, when the eyes are bad, they cannot earn much; the eldest of those boys was sick, and evidently going in a decline; she applied to the board for a doctor for him; she was not allowed one.

6836. *Chairman.*] When did she apply to the board?—One of her applications was in July last. I find she applied in July, and told Marshall that her son was dying; and Marshall would not let her go up-stairs.

6837. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you state the case of this family, at the time you are alluding to?—She applied to the board; she took him with her; they asked her what she wanted; she said she wanted some help, she wanted a doctor for her son; they told her they could not do any thing for her, she must come into the house; she did not like to do this, and went away. She went a second time; her son got worse, but they again refused her. In July her son got much worse, and was near dying; she went a third time, but on that occasion she told Marshall her son was dying; he would not let her go up-stairs; she went home, and in August the boy died.

6838. *Chairman.*] You are quite sure that this woman told you that she had made application to the board?—I am.

6839. You cannot state the dates at which she made application?—No; I do not remember particularly the day.

6840. According to your impression, what was the time?—It would appear to be about July; the boy dies in August, and she makes application a few weeks previous; that would be in July.

6841. Does she state that she made application a few months previous to his death?—Yes.

6842. There is no insertion of her name in the application-book of the union, for that quarter?—Will you have the goodness to refer to the quarter before?

6843. I refer to the previous quarter ending the 24th June 1837, and I find in that quarter an application, "Bunker, William, aged 64;" "Bunker, Hannah, aged 52;" and then "Daniel Henry and Rachael Bunker;" who appeared to be

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the children of William and Hannah Bunker; those will be different parties?—Yes.

6844. I find "Bunker Judith, aged 28?"—That is not she.

6845. Mr. *Hodges.*] You stated that she made an application to the board; did she make an application to the relieving officer?—The manner in which those things are done is this: the people come to the workhouse; there is an ante-room; their names are taken down in this ante-room, and all those people are introduced to the board.

6846. *Chairman.*] That is, the names are taken down of all who come to make application?—That I do not know; if the relieving officer says they shall not go up-stairs, I presume he does not put their names down.

6847. Are you prepared to state that the relieving officer takes it upon himself to say, whether the parties shall be permitted to go before the board or not?—I am; when I make use of that expression, I do it guardedly; I will give the names of individuals who have come distances to the workhouse, and have never been before the board, and the board have never known that they came.

6848. Are you prepared to state that in those instances, or in any others within your knowledge, the parties, having come to the workhouse for the purpose of making an application, have been prevented from making that application by the relieving officer?—I am prepared to give you the names, and every circumstance connected with it; and that is the statement I received from them, and I have every reason to believe it.

6849. That they have been prevented from making their application to the board by the interference of the relieving officer?—That is my information.

6850. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do you mean prevented by him or omitted by him?—I said prevented.

6851. Mr. *Scrope.*] Are you aware that in those cases to which you refer, a previous application had been made by the parties to the relieving officer on a former day?—Some had not made previous applications.

6852. Are you aware that it is the general rule, that applications for relief must be made to the relieving officer before they are made directly to the board, in order that he may by previous inquiry ascertain the facts of the case?—It cannot be made to the board without the relieving officer's consent.

6853. *Chairman.*] Do you mean to say that no application can be made to the board without the relieving officer's consent?—I state that.

6854. Mr. *Scrope.*] Do you mean that by the law that cannot be done, or by the practice of this particular union?—I mean that the relieving officer takes the names of all parties, and hands them up to the board, and that the persons are not called before the board, unless the relieving officer takes down their names first.

6855. Does he omit some names?—He does; they come a great distance, and they do not go up, and he tells them they had no need to go up, and they may go home.

6856. Mr. *Hodges.*] When the people told you that the relieving officer prevented them from going up to the board, did they describe in what way he prevented them?—Yes; he said, "What do you want?" "I want to go before the board;" "You may go home; nothing done for you to-day."

6857. Mr. *Scrope.*] Are you quite certain that the conduct of the relieving officer has been such as you describe, to the parties who had on a previous day made application to him, and told him that they intended to appear before the board?—I am not; I do not know that that is applied to persons that have seen him three or four days before, and given him notice; but they came to the board; and this is the point: they are ordered to go to the board by the guardians, and when they come there, they are not allowed to go up-stairs to see the guardians.

6858. When you say they are ordered to go to the board by the guardians, what do you mean?—I mean that the guardian of the parish will order such a person to come there, and the poor people think that the guardian will represent the case to the board; in one instance a poor woman who was in extreme difficulties, I believe, applied to the guardian of the parish to which she belonged, and he told her to come to the board on a certain day, and she did go, and travelled six miles, and she was not allowed to go before the board.

6859. Do you believe that she had applied to the relieving officer before?—I do not know.

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6860. Do not you know that the relieving officer is appointed in order to make inquiry into the cases which are to come before the board?—I know that he is instructed to do that.

6861. And it would be in consequence of that instruction that applications which had not been previously made to the relieving officer should not be heard by the board?—I think that the poor people that came so far to tell their story, if they are not aware that they should first have made application to the relieving officer, and came there from ignorance, ought to be allowed to make their statements to the board.

7862. Mr. *Hodges.*] Did any of those persons tell you that the relieving officer said "You must mention your case to me another day, and I will inquire into it?" —No.

6863. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Is it not generally known that the board would not entertain a personal application till the parties have applied to the relieving officer? —I do not think it is.

6864. How long has this district been in union?—Two years.

6865. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do not the poor people imagine that the application to the guardian of their parish is sufficient?—They do.

6866. Mr. *Scrope.*] If that imagination was to enter into their heads, the fact that two or three parties had walked to the board and had been refused permission to go before the board, in consequence of not having applied to the relieving officer, would be enough to put an end to that imagination?—Yes; but when their neighbour has been treated so their impression is, that, whatever their circumstances are, it is of no use going to the board.

6867. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do you not think that the poor people are excusable for showing this ignorance of the law, when the guardians themselves, who sit at the board and administer the law, tell them to come to the board, and do not state the necessity of their applying to the relieving officer?—I do.

6868. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Can you state the name of any guardian who misled the people by telling them that they could come before the board without having made previous application to the relieving officer?—I can; I will give you the particulars, the circumstances, and all connected with it; Sarah Billington is a widow 66 years of age; she lives in the parish of Cranfield, but belongs to the parish of Lidington.

6869. *Chairman.*] Are both of those parishes in the Union of Ampthill?—They are: she has very bad eyes; she is nearly blind; she came from Cranfield on the 5th of January of this year.

6870. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Had she made previous application to the relieving officer?—I am not aware; she was at that time receiving 1*s.* 6*d.* a week; she is a widow of 66 years of age, with bad eyes, and not able to make much lace; if she could do it she would not make much by it; she used to have 2*s.* a week, but it is now reduced to 1*s.* 6*d.*, and she could not live with this 1*s.* 6*d.*; she is very badly off; she applied to the guardian of the parish of Lidington, which is Mr. Thomas, and he told her he could not do any thing for her, but requested her to come to the board on the Thursday; accordingly she went from Cranfield to Ampthill, six miles, and when she got there she was refused to go up-stairs.

6871. *Chairman.*] Did she see the relieving officer?—She did.

6872. Did she state the circumstance to the relieving officer?—I believe she did; her words to me were, "I went to the board yesterday," I saw her the day following, "but they would not let me go up-stairs before the gentlemen."

6873. What did the relieving officer say to her; did he take the particulars of her case?—I do not believe that he did; the relieving officer saw her in the waiting-room of the union-house, ready to make her application to the board; she had waited there for some time; he asked her what she wanted; she said she wanted to go before the board, she could not live on this 1*s.* 6*d.* a week; and he would not let her go up.

6874. Did he take the particulars of her case?—I am not aware that he did.

6875. Did he give her any relief for that week?—She was receiving 1*s.* 6*d.* a week.

6876. She applied for additional relief, stating that 1*s.* 6*d.* was not enough to maintain her?—Yes.

6877. Did the relieving officer, upon hearing that statement, give her any additional relief for the week?—No, not any.

6878. Did

6878. Did he desire her to state the particulars of her case to him, and make a future application to the board?—He did not; she states that to me.

6879. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Do you know whether she had been before the board on a former occasion?—I do not.

6880. Mr. Thomas advised her to apply to the board?—He did; I subsequently saw Mr. Thomas, and mentioned the case to him, and asked him about it; he said, "I told her to come on such a day, and I was astonished that she did not come;" I showed him that she did attend, but was refused to go before the board; he said, "Will you make a written statement of that, and I will inquire into it;" I subsequently did make a written statement, and left it for him, giving him an exact account, from my notes, and the date, and so on; but I never heard any thing more of it from him.

6881. *Chairman.*] Did you ever see Mr. Thomas afterwards?—I did not, but I have seen Sarah Billington, and she receives only 1 *s.* 6 *d.* still

6882. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Has she made application to the relieving officer, so as to have her name placed in the application-book, and then to make application to the board?—I saw her on the 17th of February, and she had not then, neither had she been to the board nor made any other application than she did on the 2d of January; I desired her to do so; whether she did I cannot say.

6883. Can you state any instances in which the board have refused to receive the personal application of a poor person, when the name of the poor person was entered in the application-book as having previously applied to the relieving officer?—I cannot; I believe in all instances, when the name has gone up before the board, their cases have been judged of, and they have decided according to their opinions.

6884. *Chairman.*] Can you state any instances in which a party has made application to have his name put in the list, and the relieving officer has neglected or refused to do so?—Those poor people, when they come so far, are ignorant that they should make application to the relieving officer first; and the consequence is, when their names are taken down in the morning, on the board-day, and any come afterwards, those do not get admittance to the board.

6885. The relieving officer goes to every parish in the union once a week, does he not?—I believe he does.

6886. Does he go at a particular hour?—He does.

6887. Is it known to the people in the parish at what time, and on what day, he will come?—I believe it is.

6888. Would it not be in the power of those persons to be in the way when he comes, in order to make application to him?—They are; and they are told that he can do nothing for them.

6889. Do you mean, when the parties see the relieving officer in their respective parishes, that, upon making application to him, they are told by him that he cannot receieve the application, and that nothing can be done?—Yes.

6890. Will you name any instance of that?—James Wilson, in the parish of Steppingley, has a wife and two children; the one is four years of age, the younger one is about a year and a half old, and is an idiot, and gives as much trouble as a baby; I state this to show the condition of the family; this man's wife is evidently going in a decline; I think I never saw a person requiring medical aid much worse than she does.

6891. What are the earnings of the husband?—He has 9 *s.* a week; his wife requires medical assistance; she is very ill indeed; he is in a benefit club, but that does not entitle his wife to any thing, only himself; he applied last Monday but one.

6892. To whom?—To Marshall, the relieving officer.

6893. Where did he apply?—In his own parish; when the relieving officer came round, he asked the relieving officer if he might have a doctor, for his wife was very ill, and she has been so for some time, for I visited her about three months ago, and I then found her very poorly, and she is getting very much worse; he applied for her to have a doctor, but she could not have one.

6894. What did the relieving officer state when the application was made?—The husband applied on Monday to Marshall for a doctor, but he said "No, I cannot give you one;" and the poor man is not in a situation to pay for one.

6895. Did the relieving officer take his application?—He did not; that was all that passed.

 6896. Did

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6896. Did Wilson ask to have his name put down in the application-book?—I am not aware; the poor people living in isolated places are not aware of the technicalities of asking to have their names put down in a book.

6897. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Do you happen to know whether the board are in the habit of receiving personal applications from the paupers on their weekly meetings?—They do receive those applications.

6898. Do you know what number, upon the average, they receive?—I do not.

6899. Have you ever seen the room in which the people are waiting on the board days?—I have not.

6900. *Chairman.*] Do you know how many hours the board sit?—Four or five hours.

6901. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] If they receive personal applications, all those persons so received at the board must have had previous knowledge of the forms which it is necessary to go through?—If they have that knowledge it is communicated to them by the relieving officer, who will tell them what form they must go through; and I am not aware that the relieving officer told this man what course to pursue.

6902. *Chairman.*] This law has been two years in operation in the Union of Ampthill?—Yes.

6903. Do not you think that the practice of the board during that time would sufficiently have informed the poor of the parishes of the forms that are required?—It has not informed the guardians of the parish, and if so, I apprehend that it would not inform the working people.

6904. You say it has not informed the guardians of the parish, and you instance Mr. Thomas; are you quite certain that Mr. Thomas did not tell the poor woman to go to the board for the purpose of seeing the relieving officer?—Her statement to me was, that Mr. Thomas told her to go to the board on Thursday.

6905. Might he not tell her also to go to a place where she might find the relieving officer?—I am not aware; she did not give me that information.

6906. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Might not Mr. Thomas have presumed that she was aware of the form that it was requisite to go through with respect to seeing the relieving officer?—He might.

6907. He might hastily have said "Go to the board on Thursday," assuming that she would go first to the relieving officer?—He might.

6908. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you know what the forms are?—I do not.

6909. Have you ever made inquiries as to the forms and technicalities of application to the board?—I have not particularly; I did not know till very lately that the relieving officer had to put their names down at a certain time in the morning, and I am quite sure that the poor people themselves are not aware of it.

6910. Do you mean, simply from the case of James Wilson having made an application to Marshall, for medical assistance for his wife, which was refused, that it is in the power of the relieving officer to say, "No," to an application that is made to him?—He did say "No."

6911. Mr. *Wakley.*] Is it the subject of complaint by the poor that they have to go so far before they see the board?—It is a subject of complaint; but it is a greater subject of complaint that when they go there, they are not seen by the board.

6912. Mr. *Scrope.*] These forms and technicalities, that you refer to, amount to this, that the poor man is required to make application to the relieving officer before he applies to the board, in sufficient time to give the officer an opportunity of inquiring into the facts of the case?—I believe, from what I have seen of the instructions to the relieving officers, it is for that purpose.

6913. There is no difficulty in understanding the forms and technicalities to that extent?—The poor people do not understand it.

6914. You understand that technicality, and know that it is required?—I did not understand it till lately.

6915. Do you think it is a reasonable form to require?—I think it is. I have no objection to the proper steps being taken; with respect to the case of every person applying for relief, I think it very proper that the case should be investigated; but if a person makes a wrong application, I think they should be put right, and it should be explained to them that they must make the application in such and such a manner, and at such a time.

6916. You do not mean that they should be admitted by the board, that the time of the board should be consumed in reading lectures to them as to the technicalities

nicalities and forms to be complied with?—No; I mean that if the relieving officer does not take such steps with James Wilson, it is too much power in the hands of any person to have the sole dictation of it.

6917. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Did it not appear to you extraordinary that Mr. Thomas should have desired the woman to attend, and she not be admitted to the board?—Yes.

6918. Have you made application to Mr. Thomas respecting this case?—I have; I stated to Mr. Thomas the facts, and he remembered having seen her, and he remembered her coming to him and asking him to assist her, to put her in the way how to get the allowance she claimed; and he said that he was astonished that she did not come on such a day. I told him that she did come and was not admitted; and he desired me to put the facts down in writing; and I did so, and I never heard from him afterwards.

6919. This poor woman had received an allowance of 2*s.* a week, and it had been reduced to 1*s.* 6*d.*, and she had received that for one year and a half; probably she went to Mr. Thomas to induce him to raise her allowance, and he told her he could do nothing, she must come to the board?—Yes.

6920. The mistake is in his telling her to go to the board, and not to the relieving officer?—The mistake lies in the board not seeing her.

6921. You understand that many poor persons are in the habit of going to the board of guardians, and seeing the board?—Yes.

6922. Do you not think it probable that a number of persons being in the habit of seeing the board, would make it notorious to their neighbours that they might see the board if they took proper steps?—I believe they might see the board, but this is not a solitary instance of people going to the board and not being allowed to go up-stairs.

6923. Knowing, as you do, the habits of the poor, do you think any thing is more likely than this, that if one person should complain that he had not been permitted to see the board, another would answer, "I had no difficulty; I saw the board last Thursday"?—That might be.

6924. *Chairman.*] At what time did this woman apply?—I think she was there at the end of the day.

6925. Did she come long before the end?—She was there several hours, she stated, but how many hours I cannot say.

6926. Mr. *Wakley.*] When did you see her last?—The 17th of February.

6927. What was her state at that time?—She is living in lodgings; she has 3*d.* a week to pay for her lodgings, and she is trying to make lace, but her eyes are so bad, that she says, "I cannot earn 6*d.* a week at it, for I cannot make it good, and I have difficulty in making any thing from it."

6928. How did she explain to you that she was able to live under those circumstances?—That was a question which she could not answer; but chiefly on bread.

6929. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Did she buy her own fuel?—I think not; she pays 3*d.* a week; it is a small place; I have no account of any fuel; I am unable say. When I inquired how she lived, she said, "I get some bread, and burn the crust, and pour some water on it;" that is a substitute for tea or coffee.

6930. Mr. *Liddell.*] In short, she was pretty nearly starved?—Yes; her appearance would show it.

6931. Mr. *Scrope.*] She had the option of going into the workhouse?—Yes; but the workhouse is what they do not like.

6932. She would not have been starved in the workhouse?—No, but she would have been shut up there.

6933. Mr. *Wakley.*] Had she been offered the workhouse?—I am not aware.

6934. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you explain, in the case of Susan Bunker, the result of refusing medical relief?—I find Susan Bunker applied in July, but she did not go before the board.

6935. *Chairman.*] To whom did she apply?—To the relieving officer, and she did not go up-stairs; and in August, a few weeks afterwards, this boy of her's died; and she then went to ask for something to bury him, something towards the funeral expenses.

6936. Mr. *Fielden.*] To whom did she go?—To Marshall; they allowed her a coffin.

6937. *Chairman.*] Did you not state in your letter, that the poor were not allowed coffins?—I did not say any thing about coffins.

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6938. You said the poor must bury their own dead?—Yes, and so they must in some instances; a coffin is not allowed in all cases; even in cases of extremity it is not always allowed; but in that case it was allowed.

6939. Mr. *Fielden.*] In this case the son died, and the mother had not been able to obtain medical assistance for him during his illness?—No, she had not.

6940. What was the age of the son when he died?—Fifteen.

6941. Mr. *Scrope.*] What were the wages of the boy that was in work?—One shilling a week.

6942. How old was he?—Eleven.

6943. The eldest was unable to work?—The neighbours told me, not the boy's mother alone (for in cases of this sort I took care to inquire of other persons, not confining my statements to one individual, and they told me) that the boy worked longer than he was able to work. When he worked he had 2*s.* a week.

6944. Up to what period before his death did he work?—Up to two months before his death; he worked sometimes, and sometimes was off work; but he was going into a decline for six months, and sometimes was better and sometimes worse.

6945. Are you sure that a lad of 16, had only 2*s.* a week for his work?—I am sure that that was what was stated to me; there are plenty at 2*s.* a week in that part of the country.

6946. Mr. *Fielden.*] Were you told by this woman that on application being made to Marshall, for some assistance, for that her son had died, his answer was, "We must look after the living, and never mind the dead?"—That is the account I have here.

6947. That account you had from Susan Bunker?—I had; it was given in the presence of six other persons. When she asked about the coffin and some other expenses of the funeral, his answer was, "We must look to the living, and never mind the dead." This the mother thought was a very hard sentence, and said to him, "You never looked after him when he was alive."

6948. Now I will call your attention to Catherine Flint; she was refused to see the guardians?—Yes; she is a widow, she lives at Luton, 14 miles from Ampthill; she came over from Luton for the purpose of seeing the guardians; she was very badly off; the age of her children I am not prepared to give.

6949. *Chairman.*] Is Luton in the Ampthill Union?—No.

6950. Did she make any application to the relieving officer of her own district?—She did not.

6951. Why did she not do that?—Because it is not very long since she lived in Ampthill, and when she lived in Ampthill she received relief from the parish, so that the authorities of Ampthill knew her, and knew that she belonged to them; she did not feel, under those circumstances, as she was not a stranger, that it was necessary to make an application to the relieving officer, but she came over from Luton to Ampthill to endeavour to get relief.

6952. She made no application to the relieving officer of the union in which she resided?—No.

6953. Or to the guardians of that union?—No.

6954. But she came to the Ampthill board of guardians?—Yes.

6955. Had she made previous application to the relieving officer of the Ampthill Union?—I am not aware.

6956. Whom did she see?—Marshall, the relieving officer; he told her she must not go up-stairs.

6957. Did he say any thing more?—She did not tell me that he had said any thing else.

6958. Did you ask her whether he did or not?—I did; but I have no note of any answer, but that she might not go up-stairs; he told her that she might come into the workhouse if she liked, but she did not like to do that.

6959. Mr. *Wakley.*] Did she state reasons why she did not like to go into the house?—No, she did not; but none will go into the house if they can avoid it; they will suffer any privations before they will go in.

6960. Mr. *Scrope.*] Can you state her age?—She is 45 years of age.

6961. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] How many children has she?—I think three.

6962. Mr. *Scrope.*] Probably capable of earning something at straw-plait?—Yes; but my information is from other people, that but for their help and the help of others, she would be starved to death.

6963. But

6963. But there are many individuals who earn 10*l.* a year by straw-plaiting, are there not?—No individual; but the family may earn that.

6964. A family, under her circumstances, might earn that?—Yes; but that is very inadequate.

6965. Do not you think that it behoves the board of guardians to withhold relief in such cases?—This is not the board of guardians; the board of guardians does not receive the application, for she is not allowed to go up-stairs.

6966. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] If she had been allowed to go up-stairs, would the board of guardians have been in a situation to judge in her case, whether she was entitled to relief or not?—The board of guardians knew her, for they had relieved her about two years before.

6967. Could they tell under what circumstances she was living in the parish of Luton, without previous application being made to the relieving officer?—I am not aware.

6968. Do you think it would be right for the board of guardians to determine those cases upon *ex-parte* statements?—I think not; I think it is very proper that they should make inquiry into the condition of the people.

6969. *Chairman.*] If you think that, how would it be possible to make inquiries into all the cases, difficult and intricate as some of them are, unless the relieving officer had the opportunity of previously examining into the case?—But the board of guardians in this case does not know any thing about it; what I complain of is, that the board of guardians does not know the circumstance at all.

6970. Mr. *Scrope.*] If the board of guardians think it a prudent rule, that they will not adjudicate upon cases of which the relieving officer has not an opportunity of making previous inquiry, is it not in accordance with humanity and propriety that they should act upon the rule by refusing to hear cases in which they cannot adjudicate?—I think it is too much power to put into the hands of any man; I am not speaking of one relieving officer more than another; I think it is too much power for any board of guardians to put into the hands of the relieving officer, that he shall have the power of saying whether cases shall come or not before them.

6971. Sir *T. Fremantle*] If you think a previous application to the relieving officer is reasonable and desirable, and that the board ought not to adjudicate upon *ex-parte* statements, what advantage could accrue from allowing the party to appear before the board, under those circumstances?—In this instance, if she had made application to the board, and the board had thought that it was not proper to adjudicate without further inquiry, the board would have been able to write to the relieving officer of the Luton Union, to request him to make the necessary inquiries, without putting the power into the hands of one individual.

6972. *Chairman.*] What is the power which the relieving officer has?—He has it in his power to say who shall or shall not come before them.

6973. Do you mean that there is anything in the law, or the regulations of the Commissioners, which authorizes the relieving officer to determine whether parties shall come before the board or not?—I do not know that the law does authorize that.

6974. Have you ever read the instructions given to the relieving officers?—Some of them.

6775. Do you know that this is one of the instructions given to relieving officers; turn to the second rule of the duties of the relieving officer; do you find these words, "Secondly, that he," that is the relieving officer, "receive all applications for relief, and examine into the merits and circumstances of each case, and report the same to the board at their next weekly meeting?"—I find that there.

6976. Do not you find in those words a positive instruction to the relieving officer to receive all applications for relief, and to report all applications to the weekly board?—I do.

6977. Therefore, if the relieving officer, in the cases which you have alluded to, or in any cases which may arise, has not received all applications for relief, and has not reported all applications to the board, is it that the regulations drawn up are in fault, or that he has neglected to obey them?—I say, in the instances that I have mentioned, he has neglected to obey the regulations.

6978. Do you find fault with the instruction which I have just read for the guidance of the relieving officers in the execution of their duty?—I do not; I think it a very proper one.

 6979. Therefore

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6979. Therefore you think, if the relieving officer has not done that which you think necessary, the fault would be with the relieving officer, and not with the general regulations?—It is on that account that I bring forward these cases.

6980. Do you also find that the third rule is thus applicable to those cases in which there should not be time to report the case to the board, and in which relief might be necessary before the board might have an opportunity of adjudicating. "Thirdly, in cases of sudden and urgent necessity, to give such temporary relief as each case shall require, either by placing the pauper in the workhouse, or affording relief out of the house, in articles of absolute necessity, but not in money, whether the applicant for relief be settled in any parish or place comprised in the union or not." Do you not find an instruction to the relieving officer to give relief, under his discretion, during the time that may elapse before he can lay the case before the board?—I do, and I find, in an extreme case where an application has been made for medical relief, that application has not been attended to.

6981. Your complaint is rather, therefore, against the neglect of the relieving officer, than of the regulations under which he acted?—I cannot complain of those regulations.

6982. Mr. *Hodges.*] Supposing that all this which is prescribed had been fulfilled, namely, that the relieving officer had taken down every case, and had reported upon every case, and in some cases he should return for answer in his next visit to the parish to some of those applicants, that their application has been refused by the board; in that case ought not an opportunity of being heard before the guardians to be given to the person whose application has been refused?—I think there should.

6983. Do you know of any instances of persons who, upon having that refusal regularly notified to them on the following or any other visit of the relieving officers, have gone to the boards of guardians, and been refused a hearing?—No, I am not aware of any.

6984. The cases, then, that you have stated, are those of persons who appear to have been refused by the authority of the relieving officer, and not by the board themselves?—That is what I complain of, that those refusals have been by the relieving officer.

6985. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Do you happen to know whether it is the practice of other unions to allow the relieving officer to exercise that power?—I am not so conversant with the other unions as I am with that.

6986. Mr. *Fielden.*] How long does the relieving officer stop at those places which he visits, for the purpose of taking applications?—He goes round to each of the parishes in the union, and he stops in those places 10 or 15 minutes, in some cases; he used to do, I do not know whether he has done it lately; he never got out of his gig, and he paid the people while he was in his gig, and went away; in some places he paid the people in the village school-room, and in others in the church porch.

6987. Then the relieving officer comes and pays those people?—He comes round and pays those who are receiving relief in their separate parishes.

6988. During the time that he is there is that opportunity afforded which there ought to be, for poor persons to make application to him to have their cases determined by the board?—There is not.

6989. May it not often happen that poor persons may go to the place which he attends and be denied access to him, owing to the pressure that there is upon that occasion?—I am not aware that that is so, because when he has paid them they will go away, as each gets his money; but the stay is so short after he has done paying, that his time will be very limited.

6990. Will not the difference in the clocks frequently make all the difference, so as to make them either too late or too soon?—That might occur, but I have no data of cases of that description.

6991. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Do you know any cases where they pay the poor at the church porch?—I do.

6992. Do they, on those occasions, ring the church bell?—I am not aware.

6993. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is it not possible that the relieving officer may neglect that important part of his duty, without its coming to the knowledge of the board of guardians at all?—I should like to know whether the case of James Wilson was ever reported to the board, for that is exactly in point; he did apply to the relieving officer; the case is recent, for it was last Monday but one.

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6994. Looking to the characters recommended by the Poor Law Commissioners as the most proper persons to select relieving officers from, and the passage occurs in page 79, paragraph 19, "The most successful appointments, where candidates experienced in the administration of well-managed parishes were not forthcoming, have been from the superior non-commissioned officers in the army; the habits gained in military service have been found peculiarly to qualify them as relieving officers and masters of workhouses; in some instances the services of commissioned officers have been obtained at moderate salaries, and efficient men have also been engaged from the metropolitan police; the advantage of local knowledge possessed by any relieving officer, who is a native, or who has been a resident in the district, has commonly been found to be counterbalanced by the undue influence of local connexions;" supposing a relieving officer to have been appointed, either out of the metropolitan police, or out of those who had been in the army, having no local knowledge whatever of the poor residing in the Union of Ampthill; is it a matter of surprise to you that they should be dealt with in the harsh manner you have described in the cases you have mentioned to the Committee?—It is not at all surprising to me.

6995. Have you heard what Mr. Marshall, the gentleman you spoke of, was before he came into the Union of Ampthill?—The answer which the people give me is, "an old soldier;" and they consider that to be very unlikely to qualify him to inquire into the circumstances of the poor.

6996. In the appointment of relieving officers, they are recommended, in the Ampthill Union, to give the preference to those characters residing upon the spot?—The Commissioners recommended that in their report.

6997. *Chairman.*] When was this recommendation of the Commissioners published?—This was published in 1837; but I am not aware whether similar instructions had been published previously.

6998. Do you know when Mr. Marshall was appointed?—No, I do not; whether similar instructions had been published before or not, I cannot say.

6999. If it should appear that no similar instructions were published in any previous year, and Mr. Marshall was appointed previously to this, it would follow that he could not have been appointed in consequence of this recommendation?—Certainly.

Mr. *Marshall* stated, in reply to a question from the Chairman, that he had been relieving officer of the union since July 1835.

7000. Mr. *Fielden* (to Mr. *Turner*).] Does not a strong feeling prevail in the Ampthill Union on this subject; that is, that a person should be brought from a distance to attend to the wants and wishes of the poor, instead of one being chosen residing on the spot?—A very strong feeling on that subject; they consider that the persons resident upon the spot, who know the condition of the people, are much more adapted than a stranger; because he will know their wants and wishes, and know which cases should and which should not be relieved.

7001. I will call your attention to the case of Wilson; you stated him to have a sick wife, two children, and one an idiot, which makes four in the family, receiving 9 *s.* a week, and who was refused a doctor by the relieving officer; what followed the refusal of that relief?—That she had no doctor when I saw her.

7002. Is she in suffering circumstances up to this time, in consequence of it?—She is very much so; whether that application was ever laid before the board or not I am not aware.

7003. Sir *T. Fremantle.*] Are you aware, when Wilson had this conversation with the relieving officer, and he said, "No, I cannot give you an order for the doctor," whether he desired that his name should be put down, stating his intention to make application to the board?—I am not.

7004. If he had done so, he would have been entitled to go to the board to make his application?—Yes; but I am not aware whether he did or not.

7005, Mr. *Fielden.*] You have given an account of an old man of the name of Enoch Keep; was your attention to the case of that man drawn by seeing a paragraph in one of the papers circulating in that union?—My first attention to this case was drawn from some information which I received, and subsequently a newspaper was put into my hand with an account of it.

7006. Will you read the account of the death of that man in the newspaper?—I will, and I will relate what I met with afterwards; he lived in the parish of Marston: "On Saturday last," it bears date January 19th, 1837, "a poor man, named

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named Enos Keep," I believe his name was Enoch, "aged about 68 or 70 years, died suddenly, under the following distressing circumstances: he had in his younger and more prosperous days erected for his domicile a small *mud* cottage by the road-side at Roxhill-lane, in the parish of Marston, Beds., and from the neat and orderly manner in which he kept his garden, and trimmed the hedge (it being far more orderly kept than any of his neighbours), it at once told the traveller that it belonged not to an idle man; but having no employment for some time past, he became in great distress from want, and on Thursday, the 12th inst., he applied to the Ampthill board of guardians for relief, which was denied him, because he had '*estate of his own*,' and, consequently, was '*a man of property*;' he was also told by the relieving officer, with a sneer, 'You may sell your house, and eat it.' I should have said, that he had applied about a fortnight before, when he was refused relief on the same grounds; he had one son, who, with his wife and child, were in what the 'Champion' of last week (to which, by the by, I would refer your readers for an account of a mutiny in that abode of wretchedness among its inmates, because they had not a sufficiency of food) calls a bastile; the poor old man called to see his son, who actually begged of his father a piece of bread which he had brought with him from home for his own dinner, alleging that he had not half enough food allowed in the house; on the day following (Friday) a farmer at Bone End gave the old man a day's work to beat clots; he was to go again on Saturday; he did so, but starvation had made such ravages on his constitution, that he was obliged to return home; he told his daughter, who lived in the adjoining cottage, that he would take one of his old shirts to a rag-man, who lived in another cottage about 200 yards higher up the road, that he might sell it as rags to get himself food; but, alas, it was too late, for when within a few yards, and nearly opposite the rag-man's door, he fell to the ground, and instantly expired; a farmer on horseback, named Baker, saw him fall, but, like the priest and Levite in the New Testament, he passed on!! Thus, sir, in a *land of plenty*, a *Christian land*, hath this poor man been allowed to starve to death; an inquest was held on the body on Tuesday last; but what was the verdict? why, '*natural death*;' and who will wonder at it, when it is considered that some of these very guardians were on the jury, for so it is reported." I subsequently found that that was true. Before concluding this already lengthened epistle, I might just say, that in confirmation of the statement "that the inmates of the new workhouse at Ampthill have not a sufficiency of food allowed them," it was only this day that an aged man, apparently in great distress, knocked at my door to ask relief; upon questioning him as to who he was, whence he came, and the cause of his distress, he told me that he yesterday escaped from that very place, because he had not food enough allowed him. I am, dear sir, your's truly, *Paul Pry.*" I had good reason to believe who wrote that, and I went over to the place, saw the daughter-in-law, and made several inquiries, and I found that that was a correct statement, as near as it was possible for any body to give it.

7007. What was the age of this man?—Sixty-four years of age.

7008. Did you hear of any thing disreputable to his character?—I did not; he had been an industrious man all his days.

7009. What was the property that he was said to possess, and upon which relief was refused him?—A mud cottage on the road side, which was built on the waste land, and which he could not sell because the owner of the waste could not or would not give any body a title to it, and therefore it was no use to any body but himself, or somebody that he could put to live in it; the coroner went to look at the cottage, and thought it worth little or nothing.

7010. Did you hear from the daughter-in-law of this man that he had made application for relief, and been refused?—I did.

7011. Do you know whether his case was stated to the board by the relieving officer?—My information is, that he applied three times, but the third time he did not go up-stairs.

7012. You saw the mud cottage in which this man resided; do you think that there was any thing in it constituting property that ought, under any proper administration of the Poor Law, to have been available to deny him relief?—Certainly not; he had had a clock in his house, but he had sold that; to use the expression in the letter, "he had eaten his clock;" the son had given the old man money for it, but had not taken it away, and would not do so while the old man lived;

lived; but he had, to use the expression in the letter, "eaten the clock," and other parts of his furniture.

7013. Was the clock in his house at the time of his death?—My information is, that it was in the house, but that the son had paid him for it, and that he had made use of the money.

7014. Was there any thing else in this house, besides the clock, that would raise him money?—Very little; he had parted with his furniture to buy him bread.

7015. Will you now state the particulars of his leaving the house, and how he was found?—On the Saturday morning this man had been attempting to go to work; he had not had much food for several weeks before, but that morning he had had a loaf of bread from his daughter-in-law, who lived next door but one; this daughter-in-law was not in a condition to do much for him, for they had five children; and every one who was acquainted with him, believed that his condition was brought on from want of food, and this morning he was so ill that he could not stop in the fields to break those clots; he came into his son's house; he said that he was poorly; he would go and sell his old shirt, so that he could have some nourishment; he went out of the house and went into his own house, and in a little while after a neighbour woman came into the daughter-in-law's house, and said, "Here is a person lying on the road, who is it?" and they went out, and found that it was her father-in-law; she was alarmed to see him in that situation; he was dead; and they found he had the shirt under his arm, evidently with the intention of going with it for the purpose before described.

7016. The bread he had in his house at the time of his death you have reason to believe was given by a neighbour?—His daughter-in-law had given him the loaf of bread either in the morning or the night before; that is her statement to me.

7017. And she believed that he was going out for the purpose of converting his shirt into bread?—Either bread or some other necessary article.

7018. Is it the opinion amongst those that you have made particular inquiry of relative to the fate of this man, that he came to his death by want, in consequence of being refused relief by the parish?—That is the opinion of the people in the parish who knew the man and the circumstances connected with him.

7019. This was an old man, 64 years of age, who had been of an industrious, circumspect character?—So my information goes.

7020. *Chairman.*] Do you know what happened when this man made application to the board of guardians for relief?—My information was that they did not give him any relief.

7021. Why did they refuse?—Because he was a man of property.

7022. What was his property?—This mud cottage.

7023. Had the man more than one house?—Not that I am aware of.

7024. If an entry has been made in the application-book of the board of guardians, stating that the ground of refusing this man relief was, that he had two houses, you do not believe that to be correct?—I do not believe it; there are two of those mud cottages standing where he lived; but my information is, that only one belonged to him.

7025. Did you find to whom the other belonged?—I did not.

7026. Did you ask whether it belonged to him or not?—I did not.

7027. Have you any reason to suppose that this entry in the application-book of the board of guardians, which states that he has two cottages, is incorrect?—I think it is.

7028. What are your reasons for supposing so?—In all my inquiries I have never heard any statement made that he had two cottages, either from the overseer of the parish, or from persons on the jury, or from the relatives of the individual; I never heard any statement that more than one belonged to him.

7029. Did you see the cottage?—I did; there are two under the same roof.

7030. You did not ask whether they belonged to him?—I did not.

7031. You did not hear that they did not?—I did not hear that they did not, or that they did; but having conversed with so many persons who know the circumstances, I think if he had had two cottages I should have heard of it before.

7032. Mr. *Liddell.*] Who lived in the other house?—His son.

7033. Mr. *Scrope.*] How long had the houses been built?—Probably for several years; there are several houses in that part of the country built on the waste, for which they pay a fine to the lord of the manor; they cannot sell them.

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7034. Mr. *Liddell*.] Did the son pay any rent to the father for the house in which he lived?—I do not know.

7035. Mr. *Scrope*.] Do you mean to say that there are no instances of houses built under those circumstances being sold for the benefit of the person who built them?—I am not aware of any of that nature.

7036. *Chairman*.] Your attention has been called to, and you have made some remarks upon the paragraph in the instructional letter of the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 31st of January 1837, where they recommend the occasional appointment of persons who have been in military service as fitting them for the situations of relieving officers and masters of workhouses; will you be so good as to read the paragraph which immediately precedes that?—"The qualifications especially requisite in relieving officers, as well as in masters of workhouses, are diligence, firmness and mildness, together with a knowledge of the habits of the indigent classes. The poor are far more sensitive to the behaviour of persons in authority, and of their superiors in rank, than is generally imagined, and they feel the manner of rejecting their claims almost as powerfully as the rejection itself. Each of the union officers should therefore be especially cautioned as to his conduct towards the claimants of relief; he should be reminded that it his duty to treat the sick, the aged and the infirm with tenderness and care; that many of the claims which it will be his duty to reject have been created by abuses heretofore prevalent; and that in rejecting even such claims, he must not use harsh language or show an angry deportment; he must so conduct himself as to obtain the respect and confidence of the claimants of relief; and he should be warned that the Poor Law Commissioners will visit any instances of harshness, severity, inattention or incompetency with immediate dismissal. In case of tumult or resistance amongst the paupers, explanation will be required from the officer whose authority is resisted; and a repetition or continuance of insubordination or resistance to the new regulations will be deemed to be strong evidence of incompetency on the part of the officer who may thus have failed in enforcing them."

7037. Have you any reason to complain of any thing in that enumeration of qualifications given by the Commissioners with reference to those officers?—I do not; I think it is a very proper one.

7038. Mr. *Fielden*.] Do not you think that the persons they suggest, namely, old soldiers and London policemen, not residing in the parish, and altogether unknown to the parishioners, are the most unlikely characters to fill that office in the way that has been recommended in the paragraph just now read?—I always thought, when I read those two paragraphs, that they looked very strange, for that class of persons which they recommend to choose them out of are the very reverse of that class of qualification which they say they ought to have.

7039. Would not persons coming from a distance, and altogether unacquainted with the habits and circumstances of the people, be the best instruments for exercising oppression towards the poor that you can suggest?—If I wished to recommend any one to be harsh and severe towards the poor, those are the class whom I should recommend.

7040. Does not that feeling prevail amongst those with whom you have conversed in the Ampthill Union?—It does, to a great extent, not only amongst the poor, but a great portion of the rate-payers themselves.

7041. *Chairman*.] How do you explain that prior to the publication of this recommendation, the individual in question, who had been a soldier, was elected to the office of relieving officer?—I have no answer to give to that, because what they complain about is the harsh conduct of the relieving officer.

7042. They complain of the harsh conduct of this relieving officer?—They do.

7043. Do you know whether they have made those complaints to the guardians of their respective parishes?—What takes place at the board of guardians I have not the means of knowing, but I know that it has been made to the guardians, and I have good reason to believe that discussions of this neglect have been brought before the board of guardians.

7044. Have you reason to believe that discussions with regard to this relieving officer have been brought before the board of guardians?—I have.

7045. Marshall has been in office for some time?—Yes.

7046. Upwards of two years?—Yes.

7047. If his conduct has been frequently brought under the notice of the board, and discussions have frequently taken place with regard to his conduct, and he still

still continues to be employed in the office by them, is it not to be presumed that the board of guardians, upon those discussions, have been satisfied with his conduct?—I am not aware that I used the word "frequently" but that such a discussion has taken place I have every reason to believe; what the result was I do not know.

7048. Is not this result at least apparent, that the man continues in office?—Certainly.

7049. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do not the number of deaths that have taken place that you have now given evidence of, appear to you to afford convincing proof that the conduct of that relieving officer has been harsh and unkind towards the poor?—I have stated those cases, and I think his conduct has been harsh; and every body who knows the circumstances to which I have referred, has frequently complained of those cases of hardship.

7050. Have you heard shopkeepers, and rate-payers, and men of considerable property, make complaints against the conduct of the relieving officer?—Frequently; it is nothing new in that part of the country.

7051. Do you think that this old man who died in the road had tenderness and care observed towards him on this occasion?—It was precious little tenderness that was observed to him, when he went three times to the board, and did not get relief.

7052. *Chairman.*] In this case of Enoch Keep, how was the relieving officer in fault; his case was brought under the notice of the board of guardians, and the refusal was by the board, and not by the relieving officer?—Enoch Keep went to the board of guardians, and he was at Ampthill the day but one before he died, and on that occasion I think you will not find that his case was represented to the board.

7053. About when was that?—I think he died 14th of January 1837, the application would be on the 12th of January; that was the day that he was at Ampthill.

7054. Here the entry of the application is in the 11th week of the quarter ending on the 24th of December 1836; he is stated to have made an application?—He went subsequently to Ampthill.

7055. Did he make a subsequent application to the relieving officer?—He made a subsequent application to the board.

7056. Did he make a subsequent application to the relieving officer in the first instance?—I am not aware.

7057. Enoch Keep seems to have been heard by the board personally; he is stated to be 70 years of age, belonging to the parish of Marston, a widower; and in the 11th week of the quarter ending the 24th of December 1836, Enoch Keep appears to have been present at the board, to have had his case considered by them, and determined upon by them, and he was refused relief, on the ground of having two houses of his own; that is the entry that I find in the application-book of the board of guardians; before he made his application to the board of guardians, he must have made an application to the relieving officer?—On that occasion he must.

7058. And, therefore, he perfectly knew the course of proceeding; this is not a case in which we can presume ignorance?—That is correct.

7059. He made a subsequent application to the board of guardians?—That is my information.

7060. Do you know whether between this eleventh week of the last quarter of December 1836, and his going to Ampthill again, he applied to the relieving officer?—I do not.

7061. But you know that he went on the 12th of January to the board of guardians?—I do.

7062. But he must have been aware of what the process was, as he had gone through it before?—Yes.

7063. Mr. *Liddell.*] Enoch Keep was refused relief by the board of guardians because he was in possession of two cottages?—So report states.

7064. You think he was in possession of one, but both might have belonged to him?—Yes.

7065. If he had sold them both, could the purchaser have obtained any rent from them?—I do no see that he could; he could have no title to them. I have no instance of their being sold.

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7066. *Chairman.*] Could they not be let?—They might be let, but who would like to take charge of them, and give money for them, when they could not have a title to them; they were built upon land, which land belonged to the lord of the manor; they had no title to them, but they built them upon the waste.

7067. Mr. *Scrope.*] Your opinion is, that they have no title, and therefore cannot sell them; have you had that opinion confirmed by the practice of that country?—Yes, in all of those cases I could not learn that they could make any merchandize of them; for if one of those persons had a house of that description, and I wanted to live in it for myself, I might give somebody a trifle to let me have it, but the owner of the land could at any time, as far as I understand, prevent them from giving any title.

7068. Mr. *Wakley.*] What was the value of the cottages?—Perhaps they were worth 1 *s.* a week.

7069. Mr. *Scrope.*] And your impression of the hardship of the case arises from your opinion that these cottages could not be sold, and the man could not have lived upon the proceeds?—Yes, but that he had no relief.

7070. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you not consider that the hardship of this case consisted in the guardians withholding relief from a man who was so circumstanced?—Certainly; the man had no relief, and this is the reason assigned.

7071. Mr. *Scrope.*] But suppose the man could have sold the cottages, and applied the proceeds to his sustenance, you do not think that he would have had any thing to complain of?—If he could have turned them into money, there would have been no hardship; but he could not, and the consequence is, that the man is suffering extreme privations, and they call him a man of property.

7072. Mr. *Liddell.*] Under an impression that he possesses property?—Yes.

7073. Which property is valueless to him?—Yes.

7074. Mr. *Fielden.*] And you believe that this man came by his death in consequence of starvation, after the guardians had refused him relief?—That is the impression of every one in that country who knows any thing of the circumstances, and remains so till this day.

7075. *Chairman.*] You say the impression of every body in the country who knew any thing of the circumstances was, that this man died of starvation by being refused relief by the board of guardians; a coroner's inquest was held on this case, was there not?—Yes.

7076. What was the verdict of the inquest?—Natural death.

7077. Do you suppose that it was the impression of the jury who sat upon the inquest that this man died of starvation in consequence of being refused relief?—It was the impression of many persons in that part of the country that what he had suffered in his health was brought on because he had no regular means of living.

7078. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you know whether any of those jurymen were members of the board of guardians?—One of them was.

7079. Mr. *Walker.*] Had he any children?—They were grown up; one son at that time was in the workhouse, and another was living in the next cottage.

7080. Did he receive any rent from that son?—I am not aware that he did; for I do not know whether he had more than one of the two cottages or not.

7081. Is not the conduct of the relieving officer generally supposed to be harsh by the greater portion of the labouring classes who apply for relief?—But in this case more harsh than any that I have known.

7082. Did you hear a worse character of the relieving officers of Bedfordshire than you had been in the habit of hearing of the overseers in the district in which you had lived in Lancashire?—Yes, their conduct is of a harsh and overbearing nature.

7083. Do you consider that that harsh and overbearing treatment arises from the relieving officer having been brought up to the military profession?—I am not aware.

7084. Are you aware that in the workhouses of Lancashire there are many instances of discharged non-commissioned officers being appointed to fill those offices?—I am not.

7085. Is it not probable that a discharged non-commissioned officer of good character is likely to perform his functions with as much good feeling as a person from any other class of society?—I think they are not possessed of much of the milk of human kindness amongst them; they are generally more hard hearted.

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7086. You mean to say that they have been instructed in discipline which has the appearance of harshness?—That is my impression.

7087. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you had an opportunity of ascertaining whether it is the practice in the Union of Ampthill to require the poor people to sell their furniture before giving relief?—I am not aware that there has been an order given that they shall sell their furniture; but I know that expressions have been used that no persons ought to have relief while they had furniture, or even bedsteads.

7088. *Chairman.*] When you say that that expression has been used, by whom has it been used?—By the relieving officer.

7089. Have you heard that he has said that no person shall receive relief while he has furniture left?—He did, in the case of Keep.

7090. Has he said so generally?—When this subject was discussed, he made use of that expression, that that was his opinion.

7091. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you heard of the case of a widow woman, who had sold her furniture, during the time you were there?—I heard of the case of George Cox having sold his furniture.

7092. Have you the case of Elizabeth Forsay?—Elizabeth Forsay is a widow, aged 58; she has been a widow four years; she had 1*s.* a week about a year and a half back; this was taken away, and ever since she has not had any; she lives by making lace, but cannot earn 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. Up to last Michaelmas she kept her house on; but she sold her clock, her table, her chairs, and all her furniture.

7093. Do you know whether she made any application for relief?—No; I have no account of her having applied lately, but she used to have 1*s.* a week from the parish, and this was taken off; she is worse off than she used to be, because she had a shilling, and now she has not any thing; she says she would rather suffer any thing than go into the workhouse; she lives in lodgings.

7094. Then this widow, aged 58, has had her relief withdrawn, and been obliged to sell her furniture in order to subsist?—Yes.

7095. What are her means now?—She makes lace, but her eyes are very bad; and she states that she is nearly starved. However hard she works, it is impossible for that woman to make 1*s.* 6*d.* a week by making lace, and that is what she is living upon; she is now living in a room.

7096. Have you seen her?—I have.

7097. Does she appear to be in a state of great destitution?—She does; I do not remember having seen many that appeared much worse; but she is only 58, and is not entitled to any relief out of the house.

7098. Mr. *Walker.*] What does she pay for lodgings?—She does not pay any thing; she lives with a kind neighbour, who takes her in rent-free.

7099. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is this woman considered an able-bodied woman because she is only 58 years of age?—I suppose she is, for they have taken her relief away.

7100. *Chairman.*] Is she able-bodied?—She is not.

7001. What reason have you to suppose that they consider her able-bodied?—Because they have taken the relief away.

7102. Did this woman make an application to the board of guardians?—I have no information that she did.

7103. To what parish did she belong?—I do not know, she lives in Ampthill.

7104. Has she ever applied for parish relief?—She does not state that she did, she had a shilling a week, and that is taken away.

7105. When?—A year and a half ago; I am not aware whether she made any application after this shilling was taken away.

7106. Did you ask her whether she had made application?—I am not aware whether I did or not.

7107. Mr. *Liddell.*] She has been obliged to sell her furniture?—Yes.

7108. *Chairman.*] When did she sell it?—She sold it a bit at a time.

7109. When she had furniture was she living in a separate house of her own?—Yes.

7110. Did she sell her furniture when she went to a neighbour's?—She sold her furniture at different times, and then left her house when she could not keep it on any longer.

7111. Did she sell it long before she left the house?—She sold it bit by bit.

7112. And then was taken in by a neighbour?—Yes.

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7113. Is she sick at all?—She is very feeble, and her sight is bad.

7114. Do you know whether there is any thing in the regulations of the Commissioners which would prevent the board of guardians from giving this woman relief, if they thought it requisite?—I understand the instructions to say, that persons are not to be relieved out of the workhouse, except they are 60 years of age.

7115. Where did you find that instruction?—I cannot easily refer to it; but if I recollect rightly it is in the Commissioners' report.

7116. Can you point out any passage which says that?—I cannot tell where the passage is, but there is such a passage somewhere; I will find it.

7117. Have you ever read the rules under which the Ampthill Union administers relief?—I have not.

7118. But, without having read them, you undertake to say they are prevented from giving relief to a widow under 60 years of age?—I have seen it in the Commissioners' reports, but I cannot refer to the passage.

7119. Be so good as to take the report of the year 1835, and in page 85 you will find the rules under which the Ampthill board of guardians administer relief. Will you look over them, and find any passage which prohibits the board of guardians from giving relief to any persons out of the workhouse?—I find here, "Except in case of accident, sickness, or other urgent necessity, no relief shall be afforded from the poor-rates of any parish or place comprised in the said union, to any pauper between the ages of 16 and 60, belonging to any such parish or place comprised in the said union, who shall not be resident therein; provided always, that this regulation shall not extend to any person not being an able-bodied male pauper, between the ages of 16 and 60, who shall, on the day herein appointed for the first meeting of the guardians, be in the receipt of relief from any parish or place comprised in the said union, although not resident in such parish or place."

7120. Does this woman reside in her own parish?—I believe she does not.

7121. Then that would appear to apply to her; but is there not this proviso, "Provided always, that this regulation shall not extend to any person, not being an able-bodied male pauper, between the ages of 16 and 60, who shall on the day herein appointed for the first meeting of the guardians, be in the receipt of relief from any parish or place comprised in the said union." This woman had been in the receipt of relief prior to this appointment of the board of guardians, though she did not reside in the parish; it appears, therefore, that the board would have been entitled under this rule to give her relief?—But she does not reside in the parish in which she did at the time when she had this shilling a week.

7122. But if she had been in the habit of receiving relief before the union was formed, and had been then a pauper, whether she resided in the same parish or not, the board would have a discretion to continue or discontinue the relief?—Then they have discontinued it.

7123. Mr. *Scrope*.] Do you undertake to point out this rule or regulation to which you refer?—I will look for it.

7124. Mr. *Fielden*.] Your impression has been derived more from what you have heard of the practice than of the rules under which the guardians profess to act?—I am certain it is the impression on the minds of the inhabitants there that they must be 60 years of age, and I am sure it is my impression, and I think that I have seen such a regulation.

7125. *Chairman*.] Do you know cases in Ampthill Union in which persons under 60 years of age receive relief out of the workhouse?—There are some few.

7126. What description of cases are those?—In cases of sickness some of them have received relief under 60.

7127. Cases of infirmity?—Some cases of infirmity.

7128. Cases where persons have not been able to earn their livelihood?—Yes.

7129. In those cases relief is given though the party is not 60 years of age?—Yes.

7130. Mr. *Scrope*.] Then is it not clear that there is no regulation of the board of guardians or of the Commissioners to prevent relief being given to persons under the age of 60?—I will look for it.

7131. Mr. *Fielden*.] But whether there be such a rule or not, what you are speaking to is the practice which you are informed prevails?—It is.

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7132. Will you go to the case of George Cox, which you have mentioned?—"George Cox is 44 years of age; he has a wife and six children; he lives in Ampthill, but I believe he belongs to Flitwick; that is in the union; the eldest of his children is 19 and the youngest 12; but the eldest, 19, has been, since this note was taken, married, so that that brings him down to five children; he had not very good health; last summer, about July, this man had sold his furniture, and he had sold his wheel-barrow, his potato fork, and his iron rake and other things, and his bed stocks he had burnt for fire-wood; this man was under the necessity of going into the workhouse; he went into the workhouse in Easter week of 1837, and took five of the children in with him; remained in 11 weeks; during the time they were in, the rent accumulated to 16*s.* 2*d.*, and the landlord seized what furniture remained, they having left the two eldest children in the house; when this family came out, they had nowhere to go, but the first night they slept in Abbot's rick-yard in Flitwick; they then afterwards lived in Mr. Osborn's barn nine weeks, and then Osborn wanted his barn, and they removed into John Chapman's, and there remained nine weeks; this barn was wanted, and they were turned out, but found an empty house in Ampthill; in a few weeks after the husband had no work and was unwell, and they again went into the workhouse and remained there 14 weeks, and came out yesterday; and now they are with their son in a house, a very small one, not nine feet square, and one room up-stairs, this family together with the son and his wife and child; when they came out of the workhouse at that time, the youngest child had no clothes, and was brought out as naked as when it was born;" that is my information.

7133. How old was the child?—Two years and four months.

7134. Have you any thing further to state; what has become of this family since?—I went to see them the morning I came up; I found them living in a house without windows; without any floor only the earth; all the tiles taken up and no windows to the house, and the husband not well; and since that they are gone into the workhouse again, and they are now in again.

7135. He with his five children has returned into the workhouse?—Either four or five; I think one of them is left out.

7136. What was the employment of this man before he went into the house?—He is a labourer; he has lived in barns and in this house without windows; and such weather as it has been, it has not been pleasant; and now his health is such that he cannot work, and he is in the workhouse again.

7137. What character did this man bear; did you make any inquiry upon that point?—I did make some inquiry; when I made inquiry into the circumstances, and found them such as they were, I wanted to know what character he bore, and I sent him over to get his character from the last employer, and I will read what they say of him: "This is to certify, that George Cox, the elder, has worked with me, and do not consider him either a drunkard or a spendthrift, and have not heard that he is considered so by his neighbours. (Signed) *W. P. Squires; A. Brown*, vicar of Flitwick; *Frederick Henry Sharp*, churchwarden."

7138. Do you know the wages that he received when he was in the employment of that farmer?—I do not; I should think 9*s.* a week, but I have no account of that.

7139. Were his family able to earn any thing?—Two girls could plait, but I think they are not very expert at it; it did not appear to me as if they were very active at it.

7140. Do you think that they could, by any labour that they could perform, obtain a livelihood such as a labouring man and his family ought to have?—Certainly not; those two that plait would earn about 1*s.* 6*d.* a week each; this man, on account of living in this sort of way, his health is not such that he can do a day's work for a farmer.

7141. This man has been compelled, from the pressure of poverty, to go into the workhouse the various times which you have enumerated?—He has suffered very much.

7142. Mr. *Liddell.*] It was a fact that his youngest child was allowed to leave the workhouse in a state of absolute nudity?—I am so informed by various individuals.

7143. When was it brought out of the workhouse?—My note says, "They all came out yesterday;" that is three weeks ago.

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7144. The man then went out of his own accord?—He was told that there was work for him, and he went and got a few days' work; but his health is such that he cannot follow it up, and he is again in the workhouse.

7145. But on the 5th of March he went out, expecting to get employment?—Yes.

7146. Do you know what work it was?—Some little work for a farmer.

7147. At what wages?—One shilling and sixpence a day.

7148. Mr. *Liddell.*] With this child in absolute nakedness he took refuge in the barn without any windows?—When they came out they went to the son's house, and subsequently went to a house that has neither windows nor floor to it; the son's house is within a few 100 yards of the workhouse.

7149. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you heard of this man or his wife making any complaints of the insufficiency of the food in the workhouse for his maintenance?—I have; they have frequently, as well as others that have come out, complained that they had not a sufficiency of food allowed them; but in all instances, when they have complained, they have stated that the master of the workhouse has always given them the full quantity which he was allowed to give, what the dietary allowed; there were scales, and they could weigh it, but in no instance have they been cheated out of what they were allowed to have.

7150. Then the complaint was, that the allowance of the workhouse was insufficient?—It was, and in no instance have I heard a complaint of the governor of the workhouse. I would just wish to add, relative to this case of Cox's, that the clothes which the child was wrapped in was an under petticoat taken from one of the eldest girls; and that is my information from the mother.

7151. Have you in your recollection the case of Richard Lack?—I have.

7152. Will you state to the Committee the circumstances of his case?—"Richard Lack is 44 years of age, has been in the workhouse four months; he has eight children, the oldest is twelve and the youngest is nine months; he came out on the 3d of February; before he went into the workhouse he sold part of his furniture, a dung-fork, a spade, a pick-axe, a new hoe, a cast-iron pot—all this went for food; he burnt the bed-posts for fire-wood. Before this family had been in the workhouse three weeks the youngest children, three of them, had forgotten their father.

7153. That was in consequence of being separated from him?—Yes.

7154. What were the ages of the three youngest children?—The youngest is nine months old, and the two next I cannot tell the ages, but the oldest is 12 years of age, so that they could not be above three or four years of age.

7155. Have you seen Richard Lack yourself, or his wife?—Yes.

7156. Did you receive this information from them?—This information came from the mother.

7157. Did she make any complaint of the dietary in the Ampthill workhouse? She did.

7158. What did she state about it?—She made the same statement that others had made, that the food was not sufficient, that the bread was good, but that there was not enough of it; that the soup and the gruel was not good, and that there was an insufficiency for them.

7159. Is there any thing further that you wish to say relative to Richard Lack? He belonged to Cranfield; when he went in he gave up his house, and broke up his establishment, and he had nowhere to go.

7160. *Chairman.*] Does it appear that Richard Lack entered the house on the 11th of December 1837, and left it on the 3d March 1838?—He states, that he had been four months; that would be about the time: they are not very correct with dates.

7161. Why did he leave the house; did he leave it of his own accord?—Yes, with the expectation of getting work.

7162. Did he leave it with any assistance?—I am not aware.

7163. Did he tell you that he did?—I am not aware.

7164. Did you ask him?—No.

7165. If he had a loan of 10*s.* from the parish, he did not state that to you?—No; he states that when he gets to Cranfield he has no house, and no where to go.

7166. And he did not state that he left the workhouse with a loan of 10*s.*?—No.

7167. You say the three youngest children had forgotten their parents in three weeks?—That is the statement.

7168. Did you ascertain the age of the eldest of those three youngest children?—No.

7169. The eldest of the three youngest was born in 1833; he must have been, therefore, four years old in 1837. Do you think it probable that a child four years old would forget its parents in three weeks?—I should think so; they have another dress on, and it is very probable that a child might not know its parents with another dress.

7170. The second was two years and a half old; how old was the youngest?—Nine months.

7171. Was that child of nine months able to walk?—I should think not.

7172. Was it separated from its mother?—I should think not.

7173. Then if it was not separated from its mother, how could it forget its mother?—It was the father to whom I was alluding.

7174. You said "parents?"—The young ones are with their mother.

7175. Then the children are not separated from their mother?—The very young ones are not, I believe.

7176. Then this could not apply to the mother?—I meant to confine it to the father.

7177. Do you know that Lack had in his pocket 13*s.* when he left the workhouse?—I do not.

7178. Do you know that the children of paupers regularly see their parents twice a day?—I am not aware that they see their fathers.

7179. If they do, does not that decrease the probability of their forgetting their fathers at the end of three weeks?—Yes.

Mr. *Chadwick delivered in certain Returns.*— *Vide* Appendixes (A.) & (B.)

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX (A.)—AN ACCOUNT showing the POPULATION, according to the last Census, of the following UNIONS under the OUT-DOOR RELIEF, in MAINTENANCE and ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES; together with the Number of IN-DOOR and OUT-DOOR per Cent. of Decrease in each Union, as compared with the Average Annual Expenditure of the Three Years

UNIONS.	Number of Parishes.	Population in 1831.	Expended for the Relief and Maintenance of the Poor							
			LADY-DAY.				MIDSUMMER.			
			In-door.	Out-door.	Establishment.	Total.	In-door.	Out-door.	Establishment.	Total.
			£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
BEDFORD:										
Ampthill	19	14,357	231	850	523	1,604	203	818	290	1,311
Bedford	44	28,033	417	1,722	601	2,740	355	1,657	255	2,267
Biggleswade	26	18,129	353	1,181	248	1,782	304	1,152	372	1,828
Luton	15	15,483	262	926	240	1,428	282	876	148	1,306
Woburn	16	10,633	192	694	233	1,119	127	696	234	1,057
BERKS:										
Abingdon	38	16,654	311	1,196	506	2,013	313	1,066	853	2,232
Cookham	7	10,517	286	94	260	640	259	70	182	511
Easthampstead	5	6,980	124	276	115	515	135	264	125	524
Faringdon	31	14,236	356	785	380	1,521	271	681	409	1,361
Hungerford	20	18,556	365	1,473	439	2,277	286	1,347	468	2,101
Newbury	18	19,054	319	1,647	500	2,466	286	1,580	618	2,484
Reading	3	16,042	425	626	414	1,465	369	588	267	1,224
Wallingford	28	12,219	197	1,244	570	2,011	202	1,116	296	1,614
Wantage	33	15,917	289	1,559	645	2,493	245	1,289	851	2,385
Windsor	6	15,986	372	538	416	1,326	412	522	314	1,248
Wokingham	16	11,888	271	815	261	1,347	265	749	310	1,324
BUCKINGHAM:										
Amersham	10	15,331	221	1,045	211	1,477	287	1,034	221	1,542
Buckingham	30	13,129	230	1,188	145	1,563	259	1,096	143	1,498
Eton	19	18,137	463	708	501	1,672	448	610	575	1,633
Winslow	17	7,847	208	722	596	1,526	106	642	420	1,168
CAMBRIDGE:										
Linton	22	11,587	233	1,351	354	1,938	201	1,260	267	1,728
Royston	29	15,671	192	1,049	338	1,579	210	936	216	1,362
DORSET:										
Blandford	33	13,056	159	1,190	343	1,692	154	1,022	266	1,442
Poole	8	11,052	282	378	18	678	- Included in Michaelmas Quarter -			
Shaftesbury	19	12,239	168	1,096	182	1,446	186	911	219	1,316
ESSEX:										
Billericay	26	12,529	207	698	252	1,157	217	719	218	1,154
Chelmsford	31	24,212	405	2,949	539	3,893	374	2,501	520	3,395
Colchester	16	16,167	311	1,302	372	1,985	334	1,132	625	2,091
Dunmow	25	18,769	297	2,093	514	2,904	268	1,967	356	2,591
Halstead	16	15,901	209	1,952	330	2,491	191	1,747	348	2,286
Maldon	32	18,917	423	1,382	311	2,116	353	1,200	392	1,945
Orsett	18	8,609	212	656	221	1,089	203	558	192	953
Rochford	23	12,953	451	615	338	1,404	411	428	407	1,246
Saffron Walden	24	17,987	247	1,918	394	2,559	208	1,900	434	2,542
Tendring	30	21,002	466	1,634	415	2,515	477	1,383	414	2,274
GLOUCESTER:										
Cheltenham	12	29,861	401	598	234	1,233	437	565	266	1,268
Gloucester	37	22,298	173	708	144	1,025	175	692	231	1,098
Newent	18	11,049	124	557	170	851	85	511	144	740
Tewkesbury	23	14,193	228	594	248	1,070	214	542	276	1,032
Westbury-on-Severn	13	8,760	101	426	59	586	124	367	392	883
*Wheatenhurst	14	7,770	104	499	880	1,483	102	454	658	1,214
HERTFORD:										
Alban's, St.	8	15,883	434	405	201	1,040	452	351	406	1,209
Barnet	9	8,970	147	501	353	1,001	164	437	346	947
Bishop's Stortford	20	18,012	319	1,665	442	2,426	344	1,652	363	2,359
Hatfield	4	5,933	213	99	115	427	221	114	112	447
Hertford	18	12,155	222	716	257	1,195	258	636	170	1,064
Hitchin	28	20,639	392	1,348	936	2,676	343	1,229	431	2,003
Ware	15	14,654	249	1,113	238	1,600	245	957	566	1,768
Watford	6	15,379	273	524	197	994	219	500	301	1,020
Welwyn	4	1,970	65	46	71	182	86	47	72	205
KENT:										
Ashford, West	10	7,634	147	538	276	961	194	534	227	955
Aylesford, North	15	12,171	360	915	400	1,675	261	837	314	1,412
Blean	16	11,139	153	737	245	1,135	89	697	178	964
Bridge	22	10,439	275	538	198	1,011	262	435	119	816
Cranbrook	6	12,816	543	841	315	1,699	450	741	329	1,520
Dover (late River)	22	10,754	254	476	133	863	202	495	237	934
Eastry	26	13,518	334	608	268	1,210	304	547	511	1,362
Elham	18	8,212	253	684	233	1,170	224	631	262	1,117
Faversham	25	14,923	256	917	550	1,723	240	869	318	1,427
Gravesend and Milton	2	9,445	261	258	167	686	279	210	153	642
Hollingbourne	23	13,365	447	1,101	277	1,825	396	972	583	1,951
Malling	22	16,398	292	1,244	755	2,291	266	1,137	750	2,153
Milton	18	10,639	278	564	292	1,134	234	535	221	990

* The whole cost of the purchase and alteration and furnishing the workhouse has been paid out of the poor-rates by most of
head "Establishment" is accounted

APPENDIX.

Poor Law Amendment Act in which Workhouses have been established Two Years and upwards; also the Sums expended in Paupers relieved during each Quarter of the Year ended 25th December 1837 respectively; specifying the Amount and Rate preceding the formation of such Unions, and the per Centage of In-door Paupers on the Population.

during each Quarter of the Year ended 25 December 1837.								Total Expenditure during the Year ended 25 December 1837.			
MICHAELMAS.				CHRISTMAS.							
In-door.	Out-door.	Establishment.	Total.	In-door.	Out-door.	Establishment.	Total.	In-door.	Out-door.	Establishment.	Total.
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
141	804	516	1,461	212	775	199	1,186	787	3,247	1,528	5,562
315	1,571	366	2,252	378	1,610	350	2,338	1,465	6,560	1,572	9,597
265	1,077	217	1,559	337	1,119	529	1,985	1,259	4,529	1,366	7,154
235	834	153	1,222	330	964	289	1,583	1,109	3,600	830	5,539
123	601	240	964	140	584	473	1,197	582	2,575	1,180	4,337
272	975	509	1,756	293	1,026	476	1,795	1,189	4,263	2,344	7,796
191	66	178	435	293	71	621	985	1,029	301	1,241	2,571
107	283	119	509	124	241	118	483	490	1,064	477	2,031
166	628	365	1,159	240	733	306	1,279	1,033	2,827	1,460	5,320
186	1,206	770	2,162	310	1,218	347	1,875	1,147	5,244	2,024	8,415
251	1,518	479	2,248	244	1,416	291	1,951	1,100	6,161	1,888	9,149
349	513	226	1,088	371	497	263	1,131	1,514	2,224	1,170	4,908
161	1,035	239	1,435	198	1,120	370	1,688	758	4,515	1,475	6,748
156	1,148	464	1,768	284	1,264	336	1,884	974	5,260	2,296	8,530
333	489	218	1,040	466	489	385	1,340	1,583	2,038	1,333	4,954
240	685	269	1,194	277	701	291	1,269	1,053	2,950	1,131	5,134
230	895	227	1,352	243	967	284	1,494	981	3,941	943	5,865
244	1,052	127	1,423	291	1,096	302	1,689	1,024	4,432	717	6,173
307	551	399	1,257	420	563	421	1,404	1,638	2,432	1,896	5,966
127	582	147	856	172	606	130	908	613	2,552	1,293	4,458
199	1,164	425	1,788	199	1,206	349	1,754	832	4,981	1,395	7,208
206	900	181	1,287	225	929	935	2,089	833	3,814	1,670	6,317
138	1,031	318	1,487	173	977	224	1,374	624	4,220	1,151	5,995
652	751	470	1,873	300	401	51	752	1,234	1,530	539	3,303
175	895	69	1,139	191	930	244	1,365	720	3,832	714	5,266
197	650	222	1,069	248	700	339	1,287	869	2,767	1,031	4,667
302	2,136	474	2,912	452	2,3 6	530	3,288	1,533	9,892	2,063	13,488
339	873	498	1,710	374	888	481	1,743	1,358	4,195	1,976	7,529
209	1,904	744	2,857	369	1,939	705	3,013	1,143	7,903	2,319	11,365
144	1,423	346	1,913	166	1,500	340	2,006	710	6,622	1,364	8,696
269	1,033	338	1,640	454	1,046	241	1,741	1,499	4,661	1,282	7,442
170	523	184	877	182	543	229	954	767	2,280	826	3,873
383	373	252	1,008	361	447	672	1,480	1,606	1,863	1,669	5,138
99	1,807	304	2,210	101	1,874	551	2,526	655	7,499	1,683	9,837
382	1,183	256	1,821	398	1,110	278	1,786	1,723	5,310	1,363	8,396
328	485	313	1,126	382	700	349	1,431	1,548	2,348	1,162	5,058
165	714	342	1,221	215	721	320	1,256	728	2,835	1,037	4,600
62	456	131	649	54	464	150	668	325	1,988	595	2,908
180	533	260	973	198	555	284	1,037	820	2,224	1,068	4,112
102	451	135	688	74	384	200	658	401	1,628	786	2,815
118	433	291	842	187	438	755	1,380	511	1,824	2,584	4,919
410	302	191	903	394	310	244	948	1,690	1,368	1,042	4,100
240	368	467	1,075	174	397	367	938	725	1,703	1,533	3,961
266	1,232	257	1,755	353	1,704	243	2,300	1,282	6,253	1,305	8,840
208	65	183	456	230	93	88	411	872	371	498	1,741
229	601	155	985	265	590	203	1,058	974	2,543	785	4,302
265	1,092	567	1,924	439	1,183	536	2,158	1,439	4,852	2,470	8,761
209	884	268	1,361	264	906	291	1,461	967	3,860	1,363	6,190
217	502	264	983	261	504	581	1,346	970	2,030	1,343	4,343
60	50	75	185	80	60	82	222	291	203	300	794
108	492	248	848	173	520	451	1,144	622	2,084	1,202	3,908
204	785	189	1,178	316	845	523	1,684	1,141	3,382	1,426	5,949
64	617	314	995	134	652	211	997	440	2,703	948	4,091
200	409	128	737	272	445	162	879	1,009	1,827	607	3,443
363	641	263	1,267	497	762	261	1,520	1,853	2,985	1,168	6,006
175	401	288	864	219	437	244	900	850	1,809	902	3,561
240	478	251	969	279	492	368	1,139	1,157	2,125	1,398	4,680
171	596	332	1,099	261	636	507	1,404	909	2,547	1,334	4,790
204	825	289	1,318	274	831	306	1,411	974	3,442	1,463	5,879
239	206	147	592	256	189	150	595	1,035	863	617	2,515
300	877	1,540	2,717	384	1,033	499	1,916	1,527	3,983	2,899	8,409
223	1,094	668	1,985	296	1,099	250	1,645	1,077	4,574	2,423	8,074
175	465	197	837	274	476	211	961	961	2,040	921	3,922

(continued on pages 28 and 29.)

the parishes in this union; in some few it has been paid from the proceeds of the sale of parish property; the increase under the for by this circumstance.

(continued from pages 26 and 27).

APPENDIX (A.)—AN ACCOUNT showing the POPULATION according to the last Census of the following UNIONS under the

UNIONS.	Average Annual Expenditure for Three Years previous to the Formation of Unions.	Amount of Decrease in 1837, compared with the Averages.	Decrease per Cent.	Number of Paupers relieved					
				LADY-DAY.			MIDSUMMER.		
				In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
BEDFORD:									
Ampthill	14,602	9,040	62	193	990	1,183	168	954	1,122
Bedford	25,716	16,119	63	322	2,464	2,786	292	2,112	2,404
Biggleswade	12,006	4,852	40	264	2,618	2,882	255	1,960	2,215
Luton	9,016	3,477	39	181	1,760	1,941	178	1,358	1,536
Woburn	10,935	6,598	60	127	1,149	1,276	121	950	1,071
BERKS:									
Abingdon	14,467	6,671	46	263	1,524	1,787	239	1,050	1,289
Cookham	3,946	1,375	35	171	101	272	167	70	237
Easthampstead	2,700	669	25	68	366	434	67	234	301
Faringdon	13,124	7,804	59	249	1,022	1,271	208	714	922
Hungerford	16,073	7,658	48	257	1,411	1,668	190	1,802	1,992
Newbury	15,756	6,607	42	250	1,916	2,166	226	1,546	1,772
Reading	8,179	3,271	40	351	811	1,162	323	716	1,039
Wallingford	13,017	6,269	48	234	656	890	247	812	1,059
Wantage	17,120	8,590	50	255	2,034	2,289	213	1,284	1,497
Windsor	8,368	3,414	41	257	806	1,063	255	652	907
Wokingham	8,153	3,019	37	150	1,176	1,326	156	1,019	1,175
BUCKINGHAM:									
Amersham	11,520	5,655	49	150	1,393	1,543	147	1,387	1,534
Buckingham	13,705	7,532	55	154	1,645	1,799	156	1,472	1,628
Eton	12,964	6,998	54	295	1,038	1,333	278	782	1,060
Winslow	11,291	6,833	61	103	1,077	1,180	80	805	885
CAMBRIDGE:									
Linton	10,547	3,339	32	137	1,827	1,964	221	1,587	1,808
Royston	10,233	3,916	38	178	926	1,104	178	800	978
DORSET:									
Blandford	8,387	2,392	29	152	2,156	2,308	146	1,556	1,702
Poole	5,216	1,913	37	154	655	809	- In Michaelmas Quarter -		
Shaftesbury	8,882	3,616	41	129	1,736	1,865	129	1,357	1,486
ESSEX:									
Billericay	8,559	3,892	45	150	590	740	129	483	612
Chelmsford	17,246	3,758	22	371	3,830	4,201	420	3,383	3,803
Colchester	10,155	2,626	26	235	1,551	1,786	262	1,448	1,710
Dunmow	20,109	8,744	43	355	3,129	3,484	408	2,746	3,154
Halstead	16,821	8,125	48	252	2,579	2,831	241	1,424	1,665
Maldon	14,236	6,794	48	214	2,331	2,545	251	1,860	2,111
Orsett	5,897	2,024	34	180	1,108	1,288	122	791	913
Rochford	9,485	4,347	46	273	474	747	231	306	537
Saffron Walden	16,373	6,536	40	153	2,664	2,817	167	2,139	2,306
Tendring	17,850	9,454	53	356	3,200	3,556	339	2,548	2,887
GLOUCESTER:									
Cheltenham	5,732	674	12	244	951	1,195	276	758	1,034
Gloucester	7,286	2,686	37	153	985	1,138	146	958	1,104
Newent	5,093	2,185	43	81	901	982	74	775	849
Tewkesbury	7,710	3,598	47	152	857	1,009	184	845	1,029
Westbury-on-Severn	3,466	651	19	79	613	692	93	570	663
*Wheatenhurst	3,606	†1,313	†36	70	774	844	85	677	762
HERTFORD:									
Alban's, St.	8,488	4,388	52	266	879	1,145	237	653	890
Barnet	5,486	1,525	28	97	629	726	111	554	665
Bishop's Stortford	17,421	8,581	49	329	1,965	2,294	341	1,552	1,893
Hatfield	3,177	1,436	45	135	223	358	135	143	278
Hertford	8,202	3,900	48	181	403	584	201	380	581
Hitchen	12,315	3,554	29	251	2,045	2,296	204	1,511	1,715
Ware	12,131	5,941	49	170	1,612	1,782	177	1,375	1,552
Watford	8,473	4,130	49	159	791	950	142	699	841
Welwyn	1,037	243	23	30	92	122	32	78	110
KENT:									
Ashford, West	10,806	6,898	64	145	952	1,097	136	744	880
Aylesford, North	8,490	2,541	30	204	1,324	1,528	198	912	1,110
Blean	12,224	8,133	67	148	909	1,057	99	857	956
Bridge	9,803	6,365	65	196	801	997	202	578	780
Cranbrook	11,881	5,875	49	355	2,248	2,603	303	1,371	1,674
Dover (late River)	7,416	3,855	52	201	595	796	180	604	784
Eastry	16,272	11,592	71	232	1,023	1,255	233	828	1,061
Elham	9,309	4,519	49	188	1,068	1,256	195	882	1,077
Faversham	17,957	12,078	67	220	1,362	1,582	226	1,246	1,472
Gravesend and Milton	5,518	3,003	54	176	450	626	169	351	520
Hollingbourne	18,400	9,991	54	322	2,318	2,640	304	1,571	1,875
Malling	15,220	7,146	47	264	1,926	2,190	243	1,393	1,636
Milton	11,179	7,257	65	222	689	911	209	612	821

(continued on pages 30 and 31.)

* The whole cost of the purchase and alteration and furnishing the workhouse has been paid out of the poor-rates by most under the head "Establishment" is

Poor Law Amendment Act, in which Workhouses have been established Two Years and upwards, &c.—*continued.*

during the Quarters ended at						Average Annual Number of Paupers relieved.			Per Centage of Inmates on the Population.
MICHAELMAS.			CHRISTMAS.						
In-door.	Out-door.	Total.	In-door.	Out-door.	Total.	In-door.	Out-door.	Total.	
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	
115	864	979	181	912	1,093	164	930	1,094	1 & 1-10th.
243	1,762	2,005	320	1,840	2,160	294	2,045	2,339	1.
198	1,790	1,988	259	1,936	2,195	244	2,076	2,320	1 & 3-10ths.
155	1,206	1,361	205	1,435	1,640	180	1,440	1,620	1 & 2-10ths.
114	849	963	140	858	998	126	951	1,077	1 & 2-10ths.
225	937	1,162	289	1,135	1,424	254	1,162	1,416	1 & 5-10ths.
141	56	197	155	67	222	159	74	233	1 & 5-10ths.
54	205	259	59	239	298	62	261	323	9-10ths.
132	668	800	207	775	982	199	795	994	1 & 4-10ths.
149	1,494	1,643	246	1,364	1,610	211	1,518	1,729	1 & 1-10th.
169	1,323	1,492	219	1,378	1,597	223	1,541	1,764	1 & 2-10ths.
256	598	854	280	568	848	303	673	976	1 & 9-10ths.
211	511	722	210	578	788	226	639	865	1 & 8-10ths.
138	1,275	1,413	275	1,265	1,540	220	1,465	1,685	1 & 4-10ths.
234	536	770	278	688	966	256	671	927	1 & 6-10ths.
148	779	927	181	984	1,165	159	989	1,148	1 & 3-10ths.
135	1,209	1,344	150	1,315	1,465	145	1,326	1,471	9-10ths.
179	1,321	1,500	223	1,448	1,671	178	1,471	1,649	1 & 4-10ths.
209	589	798	257	703	960	260	778	1,038	1 & 4-10ths.
76	550	626	93	749	842	88	795	883	1 & 1-10th.
118	1,186	1,304	212	1,232	1,444	172	1,458	1,630	1 & 5-10ths.
129	824	953	188	819	1,007	168	842	1,010	1 & 1-10th.
134	1,630	1,764	209	1,334	1,543	160	1,669	1,829	1 & 2-10ths.
160	540	700	162	721	883	119	479	598	1 & 1-10th.
119	1,121	1,240	135	1,233	1,368	128	1,362	1,490	1.
111	437	548	155	469	624	136	495	631	1 & 1-10th.
314	2,544	2,858	319	2,747	3,066	356	3,126	3,482	1 & 5-10ths.
247	949	1,196	265	903	1,168	252	1,213	1,465	1 & 6-10ths.
240	2,239	2,479	459	2,514	2,973	366	2,657	3,023	2.
126	1,922	2,048	204	2,037	2,241	206	1,991	2,197	1 & 3-10ths.
192	1,575	1,767	231	1,625	1,906	235	1,848	2,083	1 & 2-10ths.
126	700	826	129	786	915	139	846	985	1 & 6-10ths.
206	235	441	217	263	480	232	319	551	1 & 8-10ths.
90	1,916	2,006	122	2,031	2,153	133	2,188	2,321	8-10ths.
272	1,999	2,271	319	1,687	2,006	322	2,359	2,681	1 & 5-10ths.
210	766	976	280	1,004	1,284	252	870	1,122	9-10ths.
136	930	1,066	160	944	1,104	149	954	1,103	7-10ths.
56	662	718	63	681	744	69	755	824	6-10ths.
131	790	921	148	862	1,010	154	838	992	1 & 1-10th.
80	616	696	70	608	678	81	602	683	9-10ths.
84	573	657	121	567	688	90	648	738	1 & 2-10ths.
245	437	682	252	675	927	250	661	911	1 & 6-10ths.
111	545	656	121	602	723	110	582	692	1 & 2-10ths.
234	1,292	1,526	340	1,370	1,710	311	1,545	1,856	1 & 7-10ths.
113	108	221	120	152	272	126	156	282	2 & 1-10th.
187	381	568	251	383	634	205	387	592	1 & 7-10ths.
178	1,282	1,460	266	1,353	1,619	225	1,548	1,773	1 & 1-10th.
143	991	1,134	199	1,306	1,505	172	1,321	1,493	1 & 2-10ths.
137	671	808	160	658	818	149	705	854	9-10ths.
30	54	84	39	96	135	33	80	113	1 & 7-10ths.
103	611	714	186	703	889	142	753	895	1 & 9-10ths.
157	782	939	192	1,053	1,245	188	1,018	1,206	1 & 6-10ths.
75	704	779	111	715	826	108	796	904	1.
161	444	605	203	427	630	190	563	753	1 & 8-10ths.
245	1,192	1,437	363	1,400	1,763	316	1,553	1,869	2 & 5-10ths.
157	523	680	171	477	648	177	550	727	1 & 6-10ths.
184	591	775	222	558	780	218	750	968	1 & 6-10ths.
147	956	1,103	203	512	715	183	855	1,038	2 & 2-10ths.
255	1,010	1,265	263	1,031	1,294	241	1,162	1,403	1 & 6-10ths.
147	264	411	156	257	413	162	330	492	1 & 7-10ths.
223	1,309	1,532	320	1,504	1,824	292	1,676	1,968	2 & 2-10ths.
197	1,385	1,582	295	1,412	1,707	250	1,529	1,779	1 & 5-10ths.
137	460	597	207	492	699	194	563	757	1 & 8-10ths.

of the parishes in this union; in some few it has been paid from the proceeds of the sale of parish property. The increase accounted for by this circumstance.

† Increase.

(continued from pages 28 and 29)

APPENDIX (A.)—AN ACCOUNT showing the POPULATION according to the last Census of the following UNIONS under the

UNIONS.	Number of Parishes.	Population in 1838.	Expended for the Relief and Maintenance of the Poor							
			LADY-DAY.				MIDSUMMER.			
			In-door.	Out-door.	Establishment.	TOTAL.	In-door.	Out-door.	Establishment.	TOTAL.
KENT—*continued.*			£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Romney Marsh	19	4,859	210	261	201	672	174	260	166	600
Sheppey	7	9,934	263	380	223	866	256	362	246	864
Tenterden	11	10,748	297	1,033	541	1,871	422	782	244	1,448
Tonbridge	10	21,159	466	1,347	676	2,489	325	1,137	311	1,773
LINCOLN:										
Bourn	37	17,174	150	743	310	1,203	153	607	222	982
Spalding	8	15,579	290	573	930	1,793	401	470	511	1,382
Stamford	37	15,411	107	715	223	1,045	97	631	732	1,460
MIDDLESEX:										
Hendon	8	13,191	351	320	542	1,213	419	239	520	1,178
NORTHAMPTON:										
Northampton	17	21,761	265	1,028	223	1,516	259	1,035	173	1,467
Wellingborough	27	18,571	171	1,579	405	2,155	144	1,484	468	2,096
OXFORD:										
Banbury	41	23,705	256	2,053	811	3,120	253	1,945	411	2,609
Henley	21	14,651	276	1,237	363	1,876	263	1,106	272	1,641
SOUTHAMPTON:										
Alresford	18	6,971	212	562	424	1,198	164	536	286	986
Alton	19	10,342	232	807	251	1,290	188	716	331	1,235
Catherington	5	1,956	85	176	100	361	85	154	81	320
Christchurch	3	7,089	142	505	135	782	160	466	77	703
Droxford	11	9,549	243	848	199	1,290	180	804	301	1,285
Fareham	9	12,137	261	725	57	1,043	234	683	199	1,116
Fordingbridge	9	5,567	143	525	300	968	127	517	131	775
Hartley Wintney	13	9,830	168	595	243	1,006	134	582	235	951
Havant	6	6,398	155	381	181	717	139	370	145	654
Hursley	4	2,718	48	92	79	219	57	119	22	198
Kingsclere	15	7,885	62	830	361	1,253	94	647	184	925
Lymington	6	9,501	374	632	430	1,436	227	515	357	1,099
New Winchester	32	16,807	198	1,434	307	1,939	202	1,336	281	1,819
Ringwood	5	4,907	126	326	107	559	163	305	96	564
Romsey	12	9,969	177	900	207	1,284	143	749	180	1,072
South Stoneham	9	9,447	217	375	142	734	172	405	311	888
Whitchurch	7	5,175	87	478	144	709	105	423	163	691
SUFFOLK:										
Blything	49	25,303	466	1,971	422	2,859	295	1,799	382	2,476
Bosmere and Claydon	38	15,957	396	1,134	471	2,001	429	932	390	1,751
Cosford	28	17,900	349	1,289	409	2,047	325	1,051	355	1,731
Hartismere	32	17,871	134	2,167	285	2,586	123	1,894	419	2,436
Hoxne	24	15,166	335	1,203	442	1,980	274	970	415	1,659
Ipswich	14	20,528	298	1,783	417	2,498	281	1,538	395	2,214
Plomesgate	40	20,703	238	2,096	118	2,452	186	1,899	706	2,791
Risbridge	26	16,192	177	1,660	310	2,147	154	1,450	477	2,081
Stow	31	16,846	197	1,184	166	1,547	162	1,077	407	1,646
Sudbury	42	27,896	268	2,701	553	3,522	244	2,527	1,228	3,999
Woodbridge	46	22,163	444	2,185	675	3,304	422	1,963	590	2,975
SUSSEX:										
Battle	14	12,068	335	668	580	1,583	349	600	580	1,529
Chailey	11	5,977	361	623	434	1,418	292	499	551	1,342
Cuckfield	15	12,017	275	1,092	314	1,681	219	927	307	1,453
Eastbourne	14	7,823	267	696	252	1,215	198	632	246	1,076
East Grinstead	7	11,476	504	967	484	1,955	439	756	518	1,713
Horsham	10	12,270	345	956	388	1,689	266	771	352	1,389
Lewes	7	9,297	281	471	225	977	237	415	245	897
Midhurst	26	12,239	217	809	1,026	2,052	194	751	900	1,845
Newhaven	16	4,400	120	193	281	594	111	175	232	518
Petworth	5	9,042	264	564	254	1,082	242	526	228	996
Rye	12	11,418	547	892	809	2,248	610	695	308	1,613
Steyning	23	11,071	210	674	276	1,160	187	624	475	1,286
Thakeham	14	7,311	192	342	205	739	225	349	186	760
Ticehurst	8	13,347	216	960	239	1,415	225	883	248	1,356
Uckfield	11	16,109	465	950	419	1,834	579	831	349	1,759
Westbourne	12	6,585	150	294	197	641	133	280	130	543
Westhampnett	37	15,017	362	589	411	1,362	267	582	549	1,398
WILTS:										
Alderbury	22	13,227	225	1,108	398	1,731	211	991	484	1,686
Bradford	8	12,660	298	865	269	1,432	344	817	215	1,376
Calne	11	8,973	185	914	208	1,307	146	827	209	1,182
Highworth & Swindon	16	12,611	219	1,143	301	1,663	124	1,029	276	1,429
Westbury and Whorwells Down.	10	13,164	175	881	239	1,295	201	835	340	1,376
TOTALS	2,312	1,666,150	32,999	116,256	42,971	192,226	30,505	104,491	42,509	177,505

* The Abstracts of these Unions for the Christmas Quarter have not yet been

Poor Law Amendment Act, in which Workhouses have been established Two Years and upwards, &c.—*continued.*

during each Quarter of the Year, ended 25 December 1837.								Total Expenditure during the Year ending 25 December 1837.			
MICHAELMAS.				CHRISTMAS.							
In-door.	Out-door.	Establish-ment.	Total.	In-door.	Out-door.	Establish-ment.	Total.	In-door.	Out-door.	Establish-ment.	Total.
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
135	270	239	644	199	280	282	761	718	1,071	888	2,677
208	375	296	879	202	364	215	781	929	1,481	980	3,390
225	746	301	1,272	480	849	433	1,762	1,424	3,410	1,519	6,353
370	1,127	434	1,931	399	1,150	344	1,893	1,560	4,761	1,765	8,086
135	586	186	907	178	609	204	991	616	2,545	922	4,083
355	424	354	1,133	182	449	509	1,140	1,228	1,916	2,304	5,448
89	602	552	1,243	103	637	498	1,238	396	2,585	2,005	4,986
396	206	372	974	389	255	478	1,122*	1,555	1,020	1,912	4,487
160	993	489	1,642	182	949	342	1,473	866	4,005	1,227	6,098
159	1,418	272	1,849	206	1,357	377	1,940	680	5,838	1,522	8,040
211	1,768	576	2,555	264	1,829	443	2,536	984	7,595	2,241	10,820
208	1,009	301	1,518	310	1,124	946	2,380	1,057	4,476	1,882	7,415
167	435	430	1,032	238	490	255	983	781	2,023	1,395	4,199
163	658	355	1,176	217	691	157	1,065	800	2,872	1,094	4,766
52	146	118	316	54	147	82	283	276	623	381	1,280
119	438	114	671	198	406	116	720	619	1,815	442	2,876
146	711	335	1,192	238	757	362	1,357	807	3,120	1,197	5,124
214	635	151	1,000	240	673	377	1,290	949	2,716	784	4,449
100	488	125	713	100	516	123	739	470	2,046	679	3,195
115	559	266	940	161	571	240	972	578	2,307	984	3,869
123	333	236	692	143	328	184	655	560	1,412	746	2,718
41	85	77	203	84	91	87	262	230	387	265	882
101	517	326	944	172	598	221	991	429	2,592	1,092	4,113
283	506	377	1,166	294	551	388	*1,233	1,178	2,204	1,552	4,934
171	1,213	256	1,640	191	1,293	230	1,714	762	5,276	1,074	7,112
108	260	105	473	109	312	133	554	506	1,203	441	2,150
152	611	169	932	170	652	167	989	642	2,912	723	4,277
174	325	143	642	229	339	217	785	792	1,444	813	3,049
65	359	118	542	95	448	215	758	352	1,708	640	2,700
367	1,652	680	2,699	297	1,694	487	2,478	1,425	7,116	1,971	10,512
298	841	374	1,513	386	935	408	1,729	1,509	3,842	1,643	6,994
217	951	504	1,672	252	1,007	444	1,703	1,143	4,298	1,712	7,153
127	1,572	472	2,171	192	1,450	473	2,115	576	7,083	1,649	9,308
159	944	415	1,518	239	924	834	1,997	1,007	4,041	2,106	7,154
253	1,486	359	2,098	304	1,492	469	2,265	1,136	6,299	1,640	9,075
135	1,637	270	2,042	229	1,802	519	2,550	788	7,434	1,613	9,835
139	1,291	696	2,126	203	1,423	382	2,008	673	5,824	1,865	8,362
145	915	393	1,453	171	931	343	1,445	675	4,107	1,309	6,091
443	2,291	893	3,627	420	2,392	1,350	4,162	1,375	99,11	4,024	15,310
241	1,737	1,006	2,984	360	1,794	467	2,621	1,467	76,79	2,738	11,884
325	557	464	1,346	491	635	580	1,706	1,500	2,460	2,204	6,164
166	420	258	844	227	424	398	1,049	1,046	1,966	1,641	4,653
183	975	271	1,429	255	1,012	323	1,590	932	4,006	1,215	6,153
150	616	303	1,069	201	649	225	1,075	816	2,593	1,026	4,435
354	732	378	1,464	431	721	576	1,728	1,728	3,176	1,956	6,860
246	656	278	1,180	323	783	366	1,472	1,180	3,166	1,384	5,730
187	404	201	792	207	463	294	964	912	1,753	965	3,630
183	631	342	1,206	210	727	375	1,312	804	2,968	2,643	6,415
81	162	169	412	89	164	112	365	401	694	794	1,889
210	475	221	906	264	524	238	1,026	980	2,089	941	4,010
572	650	302	1,524	573	725	350	1,648	2,302	2,962	1,769	7,033
145	555	235	935	274	596	380	1,250	816	2,449	1,366	4,631
136	329	189	654	183	363	192	738	736	1,383	772	2,891
174	814	204	1,192	250	947	288	1,485	865	3,604	979	5,448
390	800	368	1,558	614	701	408	1,723	2,048	3,282	1,544	6,874
122	273	261	656	117	283	202	602	522	1,130	790	2,442
192	542	754	1,488	292	543	684	1,519	1,113	2,256	2,398	5,767
196	864	320	1,380	220	906	317	1,443	852	3,869	1,519	6,240
305	806	346	1,457	333	811	352	1,496	1,280	3,299	1,182	5,761
125	717	164	1,006	162	741	172	1,075	618	3,199	753	4,570
100	893	195	1,188	213	1,049	334	1,596	656	4,114	1,106	5,876
188	810	223	1,221	239	887	233	1,359	803	3,413	1,035	5,251
26,187	96,064	40,643	162,894	32,269	100,495	43,986	176,750	121,960	417,306	170,109	709,375

(continued on pages 32 and 33.)

received; the average of the three preceding Quarters is therefore taken.

(continued from pages 30 and 31.)

APPENDIX (A.)—AN ACCOUNT showing the POPULATION according to the last Census of the following UNIONS under the

UNIONS.	Average Annual Expenditure for Three Years previous to the formation of the Unions.	Amount of Decrease in 1837, compared with the Averages.	Decrease per Cent.	Number of Paupers relieved during LADY-DAY. In-door.	LADY-DAY. Out-door.	LADY-DAY. Total.	MIDSUMMER. In-door.	MIDSUMMER. Out-door.	MIDSUMMER. Total.
KENT—*continued.*	£.	£.							
Romney Marsh	6,998	4,321	62	126	352	478	121	283	404
Sheppey	6,695	3,305	49	153	473	626	157	453	610
Tenterden	12,511	6,158	49	269	1,891	2,160	216	1,038	1,254
Tonbridge	18,623	10,537	57	389	3,157	3,546	293	2,186	2,479
LINCOLN:									
Bourn	8,506	4,423	52	113	1,394	1,507	138	1,059	1,197
Spalding	10,967	5,519	50	168	744	912	174	544	718
Stamford	6,599	1,613	24	80	1,140	1,220	91	698	789
MIDDLESEX:									
Hendon	8,568	4,081	48	176	570	746	160	297	457
NORTHAMPTON:									
Northampton	8,458	2,360	28	132	1,231	1,363	144	1,102	1,246
Wellingborough	14,782	6,742	46	113	2,296	2,409	106	1,921	2,027
OXFORD:									
Banbury	23,646	12,826	54	258	2,194	2,452	239	2,155	2,394
Henley	12,474	5,059	41	223	1,475	1,698	201	1,092	1,293
SOUTHAMPTON:									
Alresford	6,086	1,887	31	144	794	938	124	624	748
Alton	12,694	7,928	62	134	1,167	1,301	148	1,031	1,179
Catherington	2,796	1,516	54	76	226	302	76	172	248
Christchurch	3,622	746	21	103	912	1,015	91	806	897
Droxford	9,717	4,593	47	176	1,494	1,670	138	1,410	1,548
Fareham	10,708	6,259	58	218	543	761	191	925	1,116
Fordingbridge	4,754	1,559	33	147	635	782	119	654	773
Hartley Wintney	7,439	3,570	48	140	727	867	106	738	844
Havant	4,975	2,257	45	112	282	394	114	258	372
Hursley	2,159	1,277	59	33	131	164	32	162	194
Kingsclere	6,500	2,387	37	58	1,314	1,372	92	816	908
Lymington	5,471	537	10	254	1,278	1,532	175	967	1,142
New Winchester	10,312	3,200	31	195	933	1,128	165	907	1,072
Ringwood	2,990	840	28	96	413	509	99	397	496
Romsey	8,141	3,864	47	156	1,862	2,018	176	1,318	1,494
South Stoneham	6,003	2,954	49	124	574	698	126	353	479
Whitchurch	4,396	1,696	39	66	717	783	88	526	614
SUFFOLK:									
Blything	21,979	11,467	52	301	3,296	3,597	315	2,662	2,977
Bosmere and Claydon	14,306	7,312	51	326	1,934	2,260	301	1,251	1,552
Cosford	19,223	12,070	63	426	1,380	1,806	446	1,297	1,743
Hartismere	19,212	9,904	52	180	2,732	2,912	142	2,148	2,290
Hoxne	19,904	12,750	64	240	1,373	1,613	268	1,182	1,450
Ipswich	13,685	4,610	34	213	2,554	2,767	233	2,152	2,385
Plomesgate	19,947	10,112	51	218	1,626	1,844	271	1,346	1,617
Risbridge	14,315	5,953	42	187	2,805	2,992	213	1,864	2,077
Stow	13,632	7,541	55	212	1,892	2,104	139	1,541	1,680
Sudbury	26,485	11,175	42	260	4,319	4,579	230	4,275	4,505
Woodbridge	18,733	6,849	37	421	2,719	3,140	340	2,209	2,549
SUSSEX:									
Battle	14,235	8,071	57	244	1,086	1,330	235	973	1,208
Chailey	9,576	4,923	51	222	911	1,133	196	611	807
Cuckfield	17,139	10,986	64	239	2,004	2,243	199	1,469	1,668
Eastbourne	11,964	7,529	63	212	319	531	177	311	488
East Grinstead	12,053	5,193	43	318	2,061	2,379	260	832	1,092
Horsham	14,068	8,338	59	158	1,295	1,453	130	1,146	1,276
Lewes	5,770	2,140	37	133	745	878	130	555	685
Midhurst	17,536	11,121	63	199	1,474	1,673	178	1,065	1,243
Newhaven	3,371	1,482	44	68	198	266	66	145	211
Petworth	12,224	8,214	67	168	1,000	1,168	172	841	1,013
Rye	11,588	4,555	39	306	575	881	338	472	810
Steyning	9,339	4,708	50	131	1,355	1,486	116	1,129	1,245
Thakenham	9,796	6,905	70	130	415	545	139	423	562
Ticehurst	10,915	5,467	50	174	1,548	1,722	163	1,324	1,487
Uckfield	16,643	9,769	59	412	1,557	1,969	336	891	1,227
Wesbourne	8,095	5,653	70	91	442	533	84	339	423
Westhampnett	16,457	10,690	65	265	788	1,053	213	699	912
WILTS:									
Alderbury	10,672	4,432	42	104	1,630	1,734	138	1,417	1,555
Bradford	10,112	4,351	43	231	765	996	240	777	1,017
Calne	9,133	4,563	50	174	1,482	1,656	136	1,261	1,397
Highworth & Swindon	11,387	5,511	48	198	1,582	1,780	142	1,320	1,462
Westbury & Whorwells Down.	9,719	4,468	46	149	1,253	1,402	183	1,125	1,308
TOTALS	1,387,563	679,501	49	24,595	166,132	190,727	23,314	133,528	156,842

Poor Law Amendment Act, in which Workhouses have been established Two Years and upwards, &c.—*continued.*

the Quarter ending at						Average Annual Number of Paupers relieved.			Per Centage of Inmates on the Population.
MICHAELMAS			CHRISTMAS.						
In-door.	Out-door.	Total.	In-door.	Out-door.	Total.	In-door.	Out-door.	Total.	
87	238	325	133	291	424	117	291	408	2 & 4-10ths.
136	450	586	131	438	569	144	454	598	1 & 4-10ths.
194	904	1,098	328	1,083	1,411	252	1,229	1,481	2 & 4-10ths.
223	1,849	2,072	410	2,029	2,439	329	2,305	2,634	1 & 6-10ths.
126	934	1,060	151	821	972	132	1,052	1,184	8-10ths.
143	425	568	165	486	651	162	550	712	1.
88	697	785	112	695	807	93	807	900	6-10ths.
167 *	237	404	167	368	535 *	167	368	535	1 & 3-10ths.
131	1,058	1,189	128	976	1,104	134	1,092	1,226	6-10ths.
110	1,729	1,839	138	1,807	1,945	117	1,938	2,055	6-10ths.
215	1,999	2,214	248	1,953	2,201	240	2,075	2,315	1.
148	924	1,072	214	1,111	1,325	197	1,150	1,347	1 & 3-10ths.
84	441	525	138	489	627	122	587	709	1 & 8-10ths.
111	811	922	145	894	1,039	134	976	1,110	1 & 3-10ths.
69	150	219	59	163	222	70	178	248	3 & 6-10ths.
83	574	657	91	729	820	92	755	847	1 & 3-10ths.
114	1,051	1,165	176	1,147	1,323	151	1,275	1,426	1 & 6-10ths.
180	907	1,087	174	873	1,047	191	812	1,003	1 & 6-10ths.
71	625	696	84	665	749	105	645	750	1 & 9-10ths.
92	642	734	121	717	838	115	706	821	1 & 2-10ths.
97	393	490	84	385	469	102	329	431	1 & 6-10ths.
28	99	127	67	106	173	40	124	164	1 & 5-10ths.
87	878	965	156	698	854	98	927	1,025	1 & 2-10ths.
155	968	1,123	195	1,071	1,266*	195	1,071	1,266	2 & 1-10th.
158	769	927	189	837	1,026	177	861	1,038	1 & 1-10th.
84	325	409	96	368	464	94	376	470	1 & 9-10ths.
133	1,023	1,156	174	1,105	1,279	160	1,327	1,487	1 & 6-10ths.
108	357	465	119	360	479	119	411	530	1 & 3-10ths.
39	415	454	58	591	649	63	562	625	1 & 2-10ths.
272	2,360	2,632	250	2,355	2,605	284	2,668	2,952	1 & 1-10th.
222	1,143	1,365	268	1,119	1,387	279	1,362	1,641	1 & 7-10ths.
196	1,057	1,253	208	1,218	1,426	319	1,238	1,557	1 & 8-10ths.
116	1,839	1,955	202	1,658	1,860	160	2,094	2,254	9-10ths.
151	1,153	1,304	227	1,056	1,283	221	1,191	1,412	1 & 5-10ths.
203	1,798	2,001	270	1,778	2,048	230	2,070	2,300	1 & 1-10th.
170	1,960	2,130	164	1,906	2,070	206	1,709	1,915	1.
117	1,654	1,771	190	1,810	2,000	177	2,033	2,210	1 & 1-10th.
112	1,190	1,302	164	1,199	1,363	157	1,455	1,612	9-10ths.
245	3,512	3,757	315	3,146	3,461	262	3,813	4,075	9-10ths.
215	1,876	2,091	280	1,940	2,220	314	2,186	2,500	1 & 4-10ths.
216	848	1,064	397	1,014	1,411	273	980	1,253	2 & 2-10ths.
110	421	531	178	448	626	176	598	774	2 & 9-10ths.
145	1,340	1,485	215	1,533	1,748	200	1,586	1,786	1 & 7-10ths.
109	285	394	147	282	429	161	299	460	2 & 1-10th.
222	733	955	377	811	1,188	294	1,109	1,403	2 & 6-10ths.
114	1,066	1,180	183	1,170	1,353	146	1,169	1,315	1 & 2-10ths.
116	541	657	122	633	755	125	619	744	1 & 3-10ths.
150	779	929	182	874	1,056	177	1,048	1,225	1 & 4-10ths.
57	109	166	53	143	196	61	149	210	1 & 4-10ths.
138	713	851	166	846	1,012	161	850	1,011	1 & 8-10ths.
298	523	821	328	607	935	318	544	862	2 & 8-10ths.
101	919	1,020	115	857	972	116	1,065	1,181	1.
102	366	468	126	372	498	124	394	518	1 & 7-10ths.
156	1,220	1,376	283	1,305	1,588	194	1,349	1,543	1 5-10ths.
234	851	1,085	374	773	1,147	339	1,018	1,357	2 & 1-10th.
82	308	390	82	363	445	85	363	448	1 & 3-10ths.
167	581	748	230	610	840	219	669	888	1 & 5-10ths.
136	1,091	1,227	139	1,018	1,157	129	1,289	1,418	1.
255	803	1,058	261	743	1,004	247	772	1,019	2.
108	913	1,021	131	1,034	1,165	137	1,173	1,310	1 & 5 10ths.
94	1,127	1,221	218	1,426	1,644	163	1,364	1,527	1 & 3-10ths.
204	1,088	1,292	216	1,153	1,369	188	1,155	1,343	1 & 4-10ths.
18,922	116,707	135,629	24,597	122,896	147,493	22,866	134,816	*157,682	1 & 4-10ths.

* Per Centage of Total Number of Paupers to the Population is 9 5-10ths.

E. Chadwick, Secretary.

Appendix (B.)

STATE of THREE LABOURERS in Husbandry, in the Parish of *Westoning*, Union of *Ampthill*, during 1834.

	John Carter.	*William Odell.*	*Benjamin Cox.*
1. Names of labourers			
2. Age of ditto	25	37	41
3. Work employed on	Jobbing	Jobbing	Jobbing.
4. Wife or not	Wife	Wife	Wife.
5. Children living with parents	2	4	5
6. Age of oldest child	5	12	16
7. Age of youngest child	2	1	1
8. Weeks labourer was employed	10	17	12
9. Rate of wages per week	9*s.*	10*s.*	8*s.*
10. Amount of wages of labourer at his employment	4*l.* 10*s.*	8*l.* 10*s.*	4*l.* 16*s.*
11. Additional for harvests	2*l.*	2*l.*	2*l.*
12. Amount of earnings of labourer's wife and children.	- - -	10*l.* 8*s.*	16*l.* 2*s.*
13. Additional for gleaning	10*s.*	—	—
14. Allowance from parish for work and relief for labourer and his family.	13*l.* 18*s.*	14*l.*	16*l.* 10*s.*
15. Total income of family	20*l.* 8*s.*	34*l.* 18*s.*	39*l.* 8*s.*
16. Out-goings for rent and fuel	6*l.* 18*s.*	6*l.* 18*s.*	6*l.* 18*s.*
17. Net income applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries.	13*l.* 10*s.*	28*l.*	32*l.* 10*s.*
18. Number of persons in labourer's family	Four	Six	Seven.
19. Average income per head for the year	3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*	4*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*	4*l.* 13*s.*
20. Average income per head per week	1*s.* 3½*d.*	1*s.* 9½*d.*	1*s.* 9½*d.*
STATE of the same THREE LABOURERS during 1837.			
21. Work employed on	Thrashing	Jobbing	Jobbing.
22. Number of weeks employed	52	38	52
23. Rate of wages per week	9*s.*	8*s.*	8*s.*
24. Amount of wages of labourer at his employment	23*l.* 8*s.*	15*s.* 4*d.*	20*l.* 16*s.*
25. Additional for harvest	2*l.*	2*l.*	2*l.*
26. Earnings of labourer's wife and children	- - -	10*l.* 8*s.*	10*l.* 8*s.*
27. Additional for gleaning	—	—	—
28. Allowance from parish	—	—	—
29. Total income of family	25*l.* 8*s.*	27*l.* 12*s.*	33*l.* 4*s.*
30. Out-goings for rent and fuel	6*l.* 18*s.*	6*l.* 18*s.*	6*l.* 18*s.*
31. Out-goings for benefit clubs	—	—	—
32. Net income applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries.	18*l.* 10*s.*	20*l.* 14*s.*	26*l.* 6*s.*
33. Number of persons in labourer's family	5	7	9
34. Average income per head for the year	3*l.* 14*s.*	2*l.* 19*s.* 1½*d.*	2*l.* 18*s.* 5½*d.*
35. Average income per head per week during 1837.	1*s.* 5*d.*	1*s.* 1½*d.*	1*s.* 1½*d.*
36. Average income per head per week during 1834.	1*s.* 3½*d.*	1*s.* 9½*d.*	1*s.* 9½*d.*
More per head in 1837 than in 1834	1½*d.*	—	—
Less per head in 1837 than in 1834	- - -	8*d.*	8*d.*

The foregoing tabular statement shows, that in the year 1834 these three labourers (they, their wives and children numbering together 17 persons) were employed at their occupations, collectively, 39 weeks, for which employment they received the sum of 23*l.* 16*s.* The earnings of their wives and children, for the same period, amounted to the sum of 26*l.* 10*s.*, making together the sum of 50*l.* 6*s.* The allowance from the parish for these three families for work and relief, during 1834, amounted to the sum of 44*l.* 8*s.*, showing a total income of 94*l.* 14*s.* for these 17 persons. The out-goings for rent and fuel amounted to 20*l.* 14*s.* leaving a net income of 74*l.* applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries for these 17 persons; an average of 4*l.* 7*s.* 0½*d.* for each, or 1*s.* 8*d.* per head per week; the lowest family having only 1*s.* 3½*d.* and the highest 1*s.* 9½*d.* per head per week.

In 1837 these same three labourers (they, their wives and children numbering together 21 persons) were employed at their occupations, collectively, 142 weeks, and received for wages 65*l.* 8*s.* The earnings of their wives and children were 20*l.* 16*s.*, making together (all parish relief being withheld) a total income of 86*l.* 4*s.* for these 21 persons. The out-goings for rent and fuel amounted to 20*l.* 14*s.*, leaving a net income of 65*l.* 10*s.* applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries for these 21 persons, an average of 3*l.* 2*s.* 4½*d.* for each, or an average of 1*s.* 2½*d.* per head per week; the lowest family having only 1*s.* 1½*d.* and the highest 1*s.* 5*d.* per head per week.

Thus these families, by being thrown on their own resources by the operation of the new Poor Law, have had their means of living reduced, in money, from 1*s.* 8*d.* per head per week in 1834, to 1*s.* 2½*d.* per head per week in 1837, notwithstanding the work of these three men has been increased, as independent labourers, from an aggregate of 39 weeks in 1834, to an aggregate of 142 weeks in 1837.

But take the command that money had over bread in these two years, the condition of these labourers is shown to be still more deteriorated; the average price of wheat being in 1834, 46*s.* 2*d.* per quarter, and in 1837, 55*s.* 9*d.* per quarter; so that the net income of these three labourers and their families, 17 persons, would buy them 32 quarters of wheat in 1834, being 965 pints for each person, or 18½ pints of wheat per head per week; whereas their net income in 1837, being then 21 persons, would purchase them only 23½ quarters of wheat, being 573 pints for each person, or 11 pints of wheat per head per week; that is, a reduction of 41 per cent

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
3 *April* 1838.

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TWENTY-FOURTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
4 *April* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, That power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the RELIEF of the POOR under the Orders and Regulations issued by the COMMISSIONERS appointed under the Provisions of the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT; and who were empowered to report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them from time to time to THE HOUSE;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

4 *April* 1838.

WITNESS.

Mr. *James Turner*.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Mercurii, 4° die Aprilis, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *James Turner*, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *James Turner.*

4 April 1838.

7180. Mr. *Fielden.*] YOU yesterday gave statements, in evidence of several deaths, and previous considerable suffering, having taken place in individual families in the Ampthill Union; do you think if the Poor Law had been administered with that tenderness and care which is recommended by the Commissioners in their instructional letter, that some of that suffering might have been obviated, and probably the lives of some of them might have been spared?—It is very probable that the lives of some might have been spared, and very considerable suffering might have been avoided, if that care and tenderness recommended by the Commissioners had been observed in the instances I have named.

7181. I will now call your attention to one instance, of a man of the name of Joseph Clark?—Joseph Clark is one of those in which I promised the Committee the names of some individuals in the parish of Ampthill, who had not had one day's work a week since harvest; and I will state to the Committee the condition in which I found him; Joseph Clark is 24 years of age; he has a wife and one child; he had two; he states he has had only one week's work since harvest, which would not make more than a day in a week, that is, at the time this statement was made to me.

7182. *Chairman.*] At what date was the statement made to you?—About the 1st or 2d of January; I am not sure of the date; it will be the first week in January; "the wife makes, by plaiting, about 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, has 1*s.* a week to pay for rent; firing, as they can get it;" we always knew what that meant.

7183. You mean that they have great difficulty in getting it?—Yes "but if caught gathering wood, they would be in danger of being sent to the treadmill," meaning that it was not safe for them to do it.

7184. Mr. *Chichester.*] Gathering means stealing?—It may be called stealing; found trespassing is what they mean; they were in great distress; while he had been out of work one child died in the night of November the 28th; they had no candle, and could not afford one; they could not borrow one from their neighbours; the child had been very poorly for some time; they awoke in the night, and he said to his wife "Where is the baby?" and she said "It is here;" and she turned to it and felt that it was dead; that was about three o'clock in the morning; they applied to the relieving officer for something to cover the expenses of the funeral, to provide a coffin; they said they could not bury the child; and the answer they received was, "If you cannot bury it, it must remain on the ground."

7185. *Chairman.*] That was the answer they received from the relieving officer?—That was the answer the father received from the relieving officer; and the condition in which he was, was, that he had had but one week's work since the harvest.

7186. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did you visit that cottage?—I did.

7187. Did you find its appearance to be that of extreme poverty and destitution?—I did; it had such an appearance as any one might imagine it would have, with parties in the situation I have named.

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7188. *Chairman.*] Does Joseph Clark belong to the parish of Ampthill?—He lives in it, but I cannot say whether he belongs to it.

7189. Did the man state himself to be in great distress?—He did.

7190. Did he state that he had been long in distress?—In consequence of having only one week's work from the harvest, he had been in this distressed state.

7191. Was he a man who before the harvest had been in regular employment with a farmer?—No, he works for any body he can get a job from.

7192. Does he work principally on task-work?—I am not aware.

7193. Did he say what his earnings were when he was in work?—The earnings of most of them are about 9 *s.* a week.

7194. Did he state to you what his earnings were?—He did not state what wages he had, but he was a labouring man, and they generally have 9 *s.* a week.

7195. Being out of work, and having been reduced to a state of distress, did he ever make any application to the board of guardians for relief?—He does not state that he did, till the child was dead, and then he applied to get something towards the expense of the funeral.

7196. Did you ask him whether he had made any application to the board of guardians?—I do not remember that I did.

7197. Was it not a very natural question, if you found a person in great distress, and stating that he had been in a state almost approaching starvation, to ask him whether he had applied to the parish for relief?—The answer in those instances was, "It is of no use to apply for relief; they give no relief to persons in my situation except going into the workhouse;" and the people understand it, and that prevents them from going, because they do not want to go into the workhouse; and they know what the answer will be, and it is no use to apply.

7198. You say that he applied, when the child died, to the relieving officer, and that the relieving officer told him, if he could not bury the child it must remain on the ground?—That is the answer the man told me more than once or twice, and the man will prove it if the Committee require it.

7199. Mr. *Hodges.*] Will you state whether the man was married before or since the new law?—I cannot answer that question.

7200. Did he tell you how long he had been married?—He did not; he is 24 years of age; I should presume that he was not married then, but I have no data.

7201. Did he describe his circumstances under the old law?—He did not.

7202. In your communication with the different poor people of that district did you discover that there was a greater disinclination to marry since the new law than there was under the old?—I did not perceive any difference in that respect.

7203. Mr. *Chichester.*] In the first part of your examination you spoke about a great many people who had died through want of tenderness and care, and you say, also, that it would not have been the case had the recommendation of the Commissioners been attended to?—That is my impression, that some of their lives might have been spared if the recommendation of the Commissioners had been attended to.

7204. It is then no fault of the law, but of the manner of carrying it out?—If those instructions which were read yesterday, as to kindness and good feeling towards the people in relieving them in cases of extreme necessity, had been attended to, that part is not the fault of the law.

7205. But merely the fault of those who are authorized to carry it out?—It is, in those places where they say it is well regulated.

7206. Mr. *Fielden.*] Has not the law had a manifest tendency to bring about this state of things?—It has taken the power out of the hands of the rate-payers in the parishes where they reside, and put it into the hands of others, who execute the law in a harsh manner, much more than used to be done under the old system.

7207. *Chairman.*] In what sense do you say that the power is taken out of the hands of the rate-payers?—Because the rate-payers of the district to which I am alluding have no control over the distribution of the rates at all.

7208. Have not the rate-payers the power of electing the guardians?—They have, but a great many of them know nothing about it; some of the guardians, I am prepared to say, elect themselves.

7209. Are you not aware that every rate-payer has a vote for the guardians?—If they looked after it, but they pay so little attention to it that they do not vote.

7210. If

7210. If they were dissatisfied with the guardians, do not you think that they would take an interest in it?—Yes; but the guardians themselves are bound to act under another power.

7211. They are bound by the Act of Parliament;—Yes, and by the authority of the Commissioners.

7212. Was not the power of granting or refusing relief, under the old system, vested in the annual overseer?—So it was in the rate-payers meeting in their various parishes; monthly meetings, and so on, in most places; they used to hold monthly meetings to discuss the merits or demerits of each case before them, and they knew all the circumstances; the power was not so much in the hands of individuals then as it is now.

7213. That is, the power was formerly in the hands of the vestry, and in the hands of the overseer, and, ultimately, in the hands of the magistrates, by way of appeal; the power now is in the hands of the guardians, elected by the rate-payers, and the relieving officer, and the overseer and churchwarden in cases of emergency and necessity, and in the magistrate?—It is; but I will show that, though the power is in the hands of the overseers in cases of emergency, that those orders of the overseers are not always attended to.

7214. Mr. *Chichester.*] Is that any fault of the law?—It is the fault of taking the power out of the hands of the rate-payers, and putting it into the hands of the Commissioners; that is my impression of the law.

7215. But you stated just now, in your evidence, that if the rules of the Commissioners had been carried out, the fault would not be in them?—In those instances to which I referred my impression was, that a different result would have taken place if that had been done.

7216. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you heard it given in evidence that before the Poor Law Amendment Act came into operation in the Ampthill Union, they had reduced the rates to 12*s.* 3*d.* per head on the population, whereas they had been 20*s.* 4*d.* before?—I did hear that evidence.

7217. There was at that time a power which the rate-payers could exercise, different from what they can exercise now?—They did exercise a power different from what they can now.

7218. The plurality of voting and voting by proxy have given a greater extent of power to rich men than they had before in electing guardians?—It has given much more power.

7219. *Chairman.*] Do you know any instance in which a guardian has been elected by proxy votes and plurality of votes, against the single votes of the rate-payers?—I am not at present prepared with such an instance, but I do know an instance where the proxy votes are recorded, for, if occasion serves, the proxy votes can be used; but I am not aware whether it has ever yet been put into practice.

7220. Mr. *Wakley.*] So far as you could ascertain, does the system of proxy voting and of plurality of voting give dissatisfaction to the majority of the rate-payers?—In that part to which I am now alluding I have not heard many complaints of that.

7221. Have you heard that there was any contest in the election of guardians in Bedfordshire?—There has been no contest on this occasion, but there was some conversation about a contest in one of the parishes; it was privately agreed on before-hand that a contest should take place, and that certain parties should be put in nomination; the answer of some of the overseers and the experienced men was, "It will be of no use if you do, for those persons who have votes will not vote against their employers (that is, against the farmers); and there are proxy votes recorded."

7222. *Chairman.*] In point of fact, whatever may be the feeling about the votes by proxy and the plurality of votes, in large towns and populous parishes, you do not find much conversation on the subject in agricultural districts?—No, it more refers to large towns.

7223. Mr. *Fielden.*] It is a subject you have not entered upon, and have not taken up?—No.

7224. I wish to draw your attention to the case of Elizabeth Pearson?—Elizabeth Pearson, in the parish of Pulloxhill, is a widow, aged 60 years, has five children, the oldest is 19, the youngest is 8; the oldest but two is a cripple, not able to do any thing.

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7225. Mr. *Chichester.*] How old is the cripple?—Fifteen years of age. This woman used to be relieved from the parish, but for the last 12 months she has not had any; the reason why the relief was stopped was, because she refused to go to Derby to the factories; her family are in a very distressed state; she had applied to the board, she states to me, seven times. The distance to which she had to go was four miles each way; that would be 56 miles she had travelled in applying to the board seven times; she subsequently went into the workhouse, and when she had been in a few days she had to go out again, or she must have lost her cottage in which she had lived.

7226. Mr. *Fielden.*] Was she denied relief out of the workhouse?—She stated that she applied seven times, and I take for granted from that that she was denied, or she would not have gone again.

7227. *Chairman.*] Elizabeth Pearson appears to have made an application in the ninth week of the quarter ending the 24th of March 1838; when did you see her?—It was in February when I saw her.

7228. She was then offered the workhouse; did she subsequently go into the workhouse?—She did.

7229. Her eldest son is 19 years of age; do you know what he does?—He was out of work at the time to which I refer, in February; that is the statement she made to me.

7230. Does he live with her?—He does.

7231. The second son is 17; do you know whether that son lives with her?—I believe that those two live with her, but my information is, that they were both out of work at the time when I saw her, in February.

7232. Do you know whether they had been recently at work?—I do not.

7233. Do you know what they earned when they were at work?—I do not, but I suppose they would earn the wages of all the labourers in that country; the one 3*s.* and the other 4*s.* a week.

7234. Here is a third child, a boy, a cripple?—She brought that to us.

7235. Can that child plait?—I should think not, from its appearance.

7236. She has a fourth child, a girl, aged 12; what did that child do?—If that child was plaiting, it would not be able to earn more than 1*s.* a week; but the fact is, that they went round soliciting charity, for I saw them.

7237. Was there any reason why that child of 12 years of age should not be employed in plaiting?—I saw no reason why.

7238. But, instead of employing themselves in plaiting, they went round soliciting charity?—When I saw them they had some bread, which they had brought home.

7239. There is another girl, aged 10; was there any reason why she should not have been employed in plaiting?—I should think they should have been learning to plait; that child had been round with the other soliciting charity.

7240. How long did they state they remained in the workhouse?—I think not more than a week.

7241. Less than a week; she seems to have entered the workhouse on the 23d of February, and to have left it on the 26th; she is stated to have conducted herself well while she was in the workhouse, and to have left it of her own accord; did she enter the workhouse with all the family?—I believe with all the family that was chargeable; I am not sure whether the eldest boy was there or not.

7242. The eldest boy appears to have been in the workhouse; did she state why she went into the workhouse?—She was reduced to great distress.

7243. What were her own habits; was she an industrious woman?—I could not hear but that she was an industrious woman.

7244. The two girls who might have been employed in plaiting were employed in begging; how was the mother employed?—I do not know; she was 60 years of age.

7245. Unless she is diseased or infirm in any way, there is nothing in the age of 60 which would prevent them from plaiting, is there?—There are very few of that age that are engaged in plaiting; it appeared to me that plaiting had not been introduced long enough into the country, for I found very few of that age who knew how to plait.

7246. She left the workhouse three days after she came in; what was her reason for remaining so short a time in the workhouse?—She lived in a cottage built

built on the waste, of the description which I gave yesterday; they paid no rent; if she did not go back to it she was in danger of losing it.

7247. To whom did the cottage belong?—I cannot say whether it belonged to the parish; I think it belonged to the parish, but I am not sure of it.

7248. She was allowed to reside in it rent-free?—Yes.

7249. And she was apprehensive of losing the cottage, and therefore went out?—They sent her word that if she did not come out and take possession of it, she would lose it.

7250. The parish sent her word?—Yes, I think so.

7251. Have you seen her since she left the workhouse?—I have not.

7252. You know nothing of her present circumstances?—No, she has left it so recently that I have not seen her since.

7253. Mr. *Wakley.*] You spoke of the wages being 3*s.* or 4*s.* a week; how long are they considered boys in Ampthill?—Till they get married.

7254. Supposing they are not married until they are two or three and twenty years of age, have they only boys' wages?—They have 1*s.* a day; that is the wages they have considered as boys' wages.

7255. Did you see any person 19 or 20 years of age, who was receiving 3*s.* or 4*s.* a week?—At 20 years of age I saw many receiving 1*s.* a day; but from 17 to 18 or 19 years of age they would be receiving from 3*s.* to 5*s.* a week; but when they are one or two and twenty, and are not married, I seldom, with one exception, saw any receive more than 1*s.* a day.

7256. Did you find them to be strong hale young men, who were receiving those wages?—I did; I will refer to one young man; Samuel Odell is a young man 20 years of age; he stands five feet ten inches high, and he is a well-made young man; he receives 1*s.* a day now, 6*s.* a week; he works with another man who is five feet eight, and that man receives 7*s.*, and they work with another, who has a wife and family, and he receives 9*s.* a week, and he stands five feet six inches high; they are all doing the same work.

7257. What work were they doing?—Labouring work for the farmers.

7258. *Chairman.*] Do you mean the Committee to infer that the wages depend in any degree upon the height of the labourers?—No, I mean to show that a young hale stout man had 6*s.* a week while he was that height, while the other with a family had 9*s.* a week.

7259. Do not the wages depend upon the nature and value of the work?—Not of those doing day-work; the married men with families, when they are working by the day, have almost invariably 8*s.* or 9*s.*

7260. The single men have less?—Yes.

7261. Is that a custom which has been introduced since the Poor Law Amendment Act?—No, I should think not.

7262. What was the practice with regard to those parties before the Poor Law Amendment Act took place?—Those young men worked in the gravel-pits as it is called, and had generally 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.

7263. So that, as far as that is concerned, the condition of those young men has been improved since the new law?—If they are in work.

7264. Are more in work now than there were under the former system?—I should think some more.

7265. To whatever extent that may be, the increase of employment, attended with larger wages than they received formerly from the parish, must have benefited that class of labourers?—Yes, but if they are only half employed now, they get nothing while they are out of work, so that if there was a third employed now, before they would have had something to fall on when they were not in work.

7266. Altogether the amount of employment given generally to labourers has increased?—It has increased a little I believe, and I have shown from my table that the labour has increased, and how many weeks' employment there is.

7267. Does that table refer generally to the union, or to one parish?—It refers to one parish; but I imagine that, from the best of my judgment, and from all I can recollect, to be a fair sample of the union.

7268. It is the parish of Westoning?—Yes.

7269. Do you imagine the parish of Westoning to be a fair sample of the whole union?—It will be rather underrated; that is, I mean, that there is scarcely as much labour in the parish of Westoning, but there are some labourers that live in the parish of Westoning that go into another parish to work, 12 or 14, and including

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cluding those, Westoning, I think, may be considered as a fair sample of the rest; but I would not wish it to be understood, that I mean the labour in the parish of Westoning to be a fair sample of that in the other parishes.

7270. Do the farmers in the parish of Westoning appear to be men of as much capital as the farmers in the other parishes in the union?—I should think not, they are not very large farmers; but it is a question I could not answer.

7271. Are the farms smaller in the parish of Westoning, than in the other parishes?—The largest farms are about 200 acres.

7272. Are the farms in that parish smaller or larger than in the other parishes of the Ampthill Union?—There are some of the parishes in the Ampthill Union, where the farms are larger than in that.

7273. But is your impression that the parish of Westoning is in that respect a fair sample of the others in the union?—I should think not; but it is a question that I do not understand.

7274. Mr. *Fielden.*] With those low wages for young men, do you consider it possible for them to make any provision before marriage?—Not at all.

7275. Is it not perpetuating the old system complained of before the new law was passed, that of making young men work together with men who have families, at a reduced rate of wages for the young men?—That it is; and I have often asked the farmers the reason why they gave the young men, who were as able, or more able, to do a day's work, as the married men with families, less wages; and the invariable answer I got was this, "This man is better off with 6*s.* a week than the man with a family with 9*s.*"

7276. Could a person surveying the work done by a young man and the work done by a married man tell which was the produce of either?—I cannot answer that question; I should think he could not.

7277. Do you not think that the work of the young able-bodied man would be as good in character, and as valuable to the employer, as the work of the married man?—Decidedly, that he is as able, or more able to do a day's work.

7278. Does not that tend to throw the able-bodied man receiving higher wages out of work, because the work can be done by young men at lower wages?—That is the natural tendency; and I know some farmers who employ young men instead of men with families, on that account.

7279. And when, from that cause, scarcity of labour ensues, the able-bodied man who has a wife and children has nothing left to him but to go into the workhouse?—Nothing.

7280. You think that a hard case upon the married man?—I am sure it is a hard case, because he has nothing to fall upon when he is out of work.

7281. Mr. *Hodges.*] You have stated that you think that that state of things is calculated to produce distress and hardship upon the married men, that is to say, that they should have the alternative of the workhouse, or working for wages of a lower description, and equal to those of the single men?—I do.

7282. But if it should turn out that the parishes should discover that by putting the married men with families into the workhouse, the rates are increased upon the parish, by maintaining so many more persons in the house, do not you imagine that they will very soon come to the calculation and to the conclusion, that it will be cheaper to employ the married men at lower wages, and to let the single men have the alternative of going into the house?—It may produce such an effect by and by, but I am speaking of the present time.

7283. You do not happen to know whether that has taken place in the district to which you have alluded?—It has not come to that yet.

7284. Then, if one of the recommendations of the new law, stated at the time it was passed, was that of improving the condition of the single man, by abolishing all distinction between his labour and that of the married man, as far as your observation has gone, it has totally failed?—It has failed entirely; I do not know a single instance, with the exception of one, where the young men are paid at the same rate as the married men.

7285. Mr. *Freshfield.*] In the parish you are speaking of, were all the single men employed?—No.

7286. Then it appears that the farmers employed some of the married men at higher wages, though they might have got single men at lower?—I do not presume that the farmers would turn their old hands away, for the married men to make room for the single men; but if two men were to offer themselves, one a single man, 19 or 20 years of age, and the other a married man, my impression

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is, that the farmer would prefer the single man, because he could have him for 2*s.* or 3*s.* a week less than the other with a family; I do not suppose that a farmer would turn away a man with a family to make room for a man at 2*s.* or 3*s.* a week less.

7287. You were asked whether, if a man with a family went into the workhouse, and produced expense to the rate-payers, that would not lead to the conclusion in the minds of the farmers, that it was better to employ them, and to let the single men go into the workhouse; might not the farmers pay the married men higher wages, as a matter of calculation, rather than that they should go into the workhouse?—They might pay them higher wages.

7288. *Chairman.*] As far as you have observed, have any of the married men with families gone into the workhouse?—No; they will suffer the greatest privation before they will go in.

7289. Have many gone in?—Some have gone in, not many.

7290. From what you heard, should you say that many married men with families have gone into the workhouse?—Not many.

7291. Do you happen to know how long they have remained in?—Until there was a probability of their getting work.

7292. How long do they remain in?—I do not know.

7293. If it should be found that very few married men with families have entered, and among those a large proportion have remained a very short time, would not the inference be, that they had obtained employment?—In some instances; I know some who went in, and came out, and did not obtain employment.

7294. If they did not obtain employment, how did they live?—I have stated before, that some part of the family are very often engaged in making straw-plait or lace; straw-plait is a little better, and if they could make 2*s.* or 3*s.* a week by straw-plait, they had contrived to live out of that, in the manner I have described, chiefly living on bread and potatoes.

7295. Do you know whether the people around Ampthill are in the habit of gathering what they call sheck, that is fir-apples, and what falls from the trees, and using it for fuel?—It is done in some instances.

7296. Are they allowed to do it?—In the park they are allowed to do that.

7297. Is it of material assistance to them?—No; a few will go to gather sheck; it is a very poor fuel when it is gathered, and when they state "We get the fuel as we can," it means that they go to gather that.

7298. Mr. *Fielden.*] Supposing a farmer to be employing six men, four of them married men, and two single men; the married men receiving 9*s.*, and the single men 6*s.*; in case he does not require more than five for some time to come, has he not a strong inducement to dismiss one of the married men and to retain the two young men?—Most certainly, as a natural consequence, he will dismiss the dearest.

7299. Has not that an immediate tendency to reduce the wages of the labourers in the Union of Ampthill?—It has a tendency to do that, but I am not aware that it has done that much; but one of the farmers stated to me, "If my conscience would let me, I could have as many men as I wanted, to do all my work at 1*s.* a day, or 6*s.* a week.

7300. If that farmer were extremely distressed by a fall in the price of produce, would it not naturally follow that he would exercise that power which he has of reducing wages?—Most assuredly.

7301. A question has before been put to you, whether the tendency of applying the workhouse test is not to enhance the price of wages, because of the increased expense of keeping them in the workhouse over what they would cost at their own homes. If the rates applied for the purpose of keeping them in the workhouse were all withdrawn, and the farmers had none to pay, and the wages were reduced from 9*s.* to 7*s.*, do not you think that the farmers would be gainers, in a pecuniary point of view, by the reduction of wages, surpassing that of any thing they now lose by the payment of rates?—They would.

7302. And, therefore, the natural tendency is to reduce the wages when there is a deficiency of employment?—It will come to that.

7303. Does dissatisfaction prevail, to any extent, amongst those single men, in consequence of being required to work with married men at 3*s.* a week less than the married men obtain?—It does not give them satisfaction, and I have often heard them say that they will get married, and then they will get the same wages as a married man.

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7304. Has not that a direct tendency to the increase of bastardy in the Ampthill Union?—I believe that bastardy has increased.

7305. Does not the low wages paid to those young men tend to prevent them marrying, because they cannot make any provision for the maintenance of a family or for setting up house?—It prevents them from making any provision, but it is an inducement for them to get married, and they have often said that they will get married, and have the same wages as other married men.

7306. Would not a prudent young man, rather than throw himself into that state of poverty, adopt another course, that is, of having connexion with females, which would lead to the increase of bastardy?—It is very likely to lead to that.

7307. *Chairman.*] You have stated that the law, as it is administered, has a tendency to depress wages, to produce improvident marriages, and to increase bastardy; have you any facts that can substantiate any of those statements; first, have you any facts proving a decrease of wages in Ampthill Union?—I have; I will first state that the farmers have said, many a time, they could have had their work done at less wages, if their consciences would let them give them; I secondly come to the facts whether wages have been reduced; I say that two farmers have reduced their wages from 9*s.* to 8*s.* a week.

7308. At the approach of winter?—Yes.

7309. Had not that reduction of wages, at the approach of winter, been usual from time immemorial?—It had not.

7310. It was a practice introduced now for the first time?—Yes; and in that parish the wages were reduced in only two instances, so that that shows that it was not a general practice.

7311. Generally speaking, do you find, in the Ampthill Union, that wages have diminished?—Not in day-work, but in task-work they have diminished to a great extent; in work wrought by the great in every instance the wages have decreased, that is, threshing used to be 2*s.* a load, and now it is done at 1*s.* 8*d.*, and in some places at 1*s.* 6*d.*

7312. When was the price 2*s.*?—Four years ago.

7313. With regard to improvident marriages; have you any facts tending to show that marriages among the poor have been more frequent than they were before?—I will not say that they have been more frequent; but this is the tendency; because they cannot have as good wages as the married men, they say, "We will get married."

7314. They feel a disposition to get married, thinking that thereby their condition will be improved?—Yes.

7315. In spite of their conviction that when married, if they have a family, they will not have any relief except in the workhouse?—They state that they get less wages now, and therefore they will get married.

7316. Are they not aware that if they are married, and have a family, they will get no relief except in the workhouse?—Yes.

7317. Are you aware that that has produced any effect in preventing improvident marriages?—No, I am not aware of facts either way; only I have often heard young men state this.

7318. With regard to bastardy, are you aware of any facts which would lead the Committee to infer that bastardy has increased in the Ampthill Union?—I believe it has.

7319. Upon what grounds does that belief rest?—From conversations with intelligent persons in the parish of Ampthill; for instance, I will confine myself to that first, I got to know from them, as far as I could ascertain, the number of females that had had bastard children within these last two or three years, and I found more bastards in the last year, by five or six, than in former years. In the rural parts they generally know every body's business, and a woman could not have a child there, but they would know it; I was cautious to take down the name of every woman who had a child, and how old it was, and whether it was living or was dead.

7320. Did you make any inquiries of the clergyman of the parish, or examine the register?—I did not.

7321. Are you not aware that in rural parishes, at all events, bastard children are regularly entered in the registers?—I am aware that they are, if they do not die before they are baptized.

7322. Is there not a strong feeling among the poor of all classes, of the necessity of having their children baptized before death?—Yes.

7323. Are

7323. Are you not aware that if the child is seriously ill, and there is an apprehension of its dying, application is made to the clergyman to baptize the child immediately?—I know that it is generally done; not in every instance.

7324. Did you examine any of the parish registers, to see whether the births of illegitimate children had increased?—I did not; the way in which I procured my information was by conversing with individuals, and I did it in about three instances with persons that I thought would know.

7325. Be so good as to name the parishes in which you held conversations with persons on the increase of the number of bastard children?—I confine my observations to Ampthill and Cranfield. The opinion of nearly every one that I conversed with was, that there was an increase in the last year, in both of those parishes, in the number of bastards, and consequently in the union.

7326. Did you make any inquiry with respect to any other parishes in the union?—Not so particularly; I speak of these two.

7327. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did you hear what the number of affiliations had been in Ampthill before the law was passed?—I believe there has been only one.

7328. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that in consequence of the change of the law, the number of affiliations made is no longer any indication of the number of bastards?—Yes.

7329. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you heard from individuals in whom you place great confidence, that bastardy has increased in those two parishes?—Yes, I have.

7330. You believe that there are parishioners there who are able to speak more fully on that subject than you are yourself?—I do; I state how I have procured the information.

7331. Did you not say that Elizabeth Pearson was refused relief because she would not go with her family to the factories in the north?—I did state that.

7332. Do you know where she was asked to go to?—To Derby.

7333. Mr. *Wakley.*] Did you hear of any children who had been sent to Stockport?—No, I do not remember, except one family that has gone to Stockport.

7334. What was the name of the family?—I have no doubt that I shall remember the name if I hear it.

7335. Did you hear the name mentioned of Ann Hostler?—I remember the name, but I have no data of the case.

7336. Did you hear of two children of that name, who had been sent to the factory of Mr. Robinson, Springbank, Stockport?—No, I did not.

7337. Mr. *Fielden.*] And on that ground, that she would not go to Derby, Elizabeth Pearson informed you she was refused relief?—Yes.

7338. Which you believe was true?—Yes, that she could not have any relief out of the workhouse; and she went in and remained there three days.

7339. There is Bernard Chappel; will you state any thing to the Committee relating to his circumstances?—Bernard Chappel is 46 years of age, and lives in the parish of Marston; he has a wife and four children; the oldest is 11 and the youngest is 3; he has been sickly for some time; the consequence was that he was very badly off; when in work he had 8*s.* a week; he was one of those labourers that had been reduced from 9*s.* to 8*s.*, working for one of the farmers to whom I alluded. On Sunday, the 17th of February, she was taken ill, very likely to be a fever, as the typhus fever was in the neighbourhood at the time; the husband applied to the overseer for a doctor; the overseer gave him an order for one; the doctor would not attend.

7340. *Chairman.*] What was the name of the doctor?—Doctor Bull; this was the case to which I was referring the other day, when I said that the overseer had given an order for a doctor, and it had not been attended to. The reason why he would not attend was, because they were not in the doctor's club.

7341. What do you mean by the doctor's club?—I will read the statement which I have of Doctor Bull's account:—"The doctor's club pays to the doctor himself, 8*d.* a quarter for a man, 6*d.* for a woman, and 3*d.* for a child; when a girl is 15 she pays 9*d.* a quarter; if the family is not in the club, they must not have any relief."

7342. Mr. *Chichester.*] Are those rules under the regulation of the board of guardians?—I am not aware.

7343. Mr. *Fielden.*] The information you had from this family was, that relief was denied them by the doctor, because they were not in the club?—That is what they stated to me, that the overseer had given them an order, and that the doctor refused to attend.

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7344. Then this is a case where the overseer had given an order, and that order was not obeyed?—It is.

7345. What was the consequence of the denial of relief in this case?—Mr. Iliffe, who is the overseer of the parish of Marston, when the doctor had refused, went to the relieving officer to get a doctor for them; he went to the house; the relieving officer was going past the door where this family lived, and he wanted the relieving officer to go into the house and see the condition of the family; he refused to go in to see them; that is my account of that.

7346. Then this is a case where an order had been given, and relief was not obtained; and you have before stated many cases where relief was asked for, but no order could be obtained for that relief?—In this case the order was obtained, and he did not attend to it.

7347. Mr. *Wakley.*] Were any families in that parish receiving medical attendance at the time this order was given to the medical officer?—I do not know that.

7348. Mr. *Chichester.*] Was the case reported to the board?—I do not know; I should like to know.

7349. Does any magistrate reside in that neighbourhood?—There is one resides about a mile from this place.

7350. Was any application made to the magistrate?—I am not aware.

7351. Are you aware that the magistrate has power to give an order in such cases?—I believe he has.

7352. Is it generally known in that part of the country?—I believe it is not, for I was not aware of it till I was in this room.

7353. Is there a guardian of that parish?—There are two.

7354. Was the case represented to them?—I believe it was, but I am not quite certain about it; I know that some noise was made about it, but I do not know whether it was reported formally to the guardians or not.

7355. Was it not generally known in the parish that the relieving officer had refused to visit a poor person?—It was generally known.

7356. You do not know whether the guardian of the parish took any notice of it at the board?—I do not.

7357. Mr. *Fielden.*] May not very serious consequences ensue if a poor man, having his family in that state of distress and disease in his house, has first to go to the overseer, then to the magistrate, then to the relieving officer; may not death ensue before medical relief can be obtained?—Certainly it may.

7358. But have you not already proved, that for want of medical relief, in cases that came before the Committee yesterday, death had ensued, and that that is the impression in that neighbourhood?—Yes, it is.

7359. *Chairman.*] You say that a man is obliged to go first to the overseer, then to the magistrate and then to the relieving officer; what do you mean by that statement?—I mean, that if the overseer's order is not attended to, and the order of the magistrate should not be attended to, then he is compelled to go to the relieving officer for an order.

7360. That is, if the authorities provided by the law do not obey the order, the man is left without remedy?—Certainly.

7361. Is not that the case with respect to all applications that may be made for assistance authorized by the law?—Certainly it is.

7362. If the overseer does not give the order in the first instance, is he not liable to severe penalty?—He ought to be.

7363. Is he not by the law?—I am not aware.

7364. I will read to you the words of the statute; this is a clause in the Act of Parliament which provides that relief shall be given generally by the board of guardians; but it says, "It shall not be lawful for any overseer of the poor to give any further or other relief or allowance from the poor-rate, than such as shall be ordered by such guardians or select vestry, except in cases of sudden and urgent necessity, in which cases he is hereby required to give such temporary relief as each case shall require, in articles of absolute necessity, but not in money; and whether the applicant for relief be settled in the parish where he shall apply for relief or not; provided always, that in case such overseer shall refuse or neglect to give such necessary relief in any such case of necessity to poor persons not settled, nor usually residing in the parish to which such overseer belongs, it shall and may be lawful for any justice of the peace to order the said overseer, by writing under his hand and seal, to give such temporary relief

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in articles of absolute necessity, as the case shall require, but not in money; and in case such overseer shall disobey such order, he shall on conviction before two justices forfeit any sum not exceeding five pounds, which such justices shall order." I will now read to you the fourth rule, under which the overseers are to give orders in cases of necessity: "If any churchwarden or overseer of the poor of any parish or place in this union shall, in any case of sudden and urgent necessity, deem it right that temporary relief to any pauper in articles of necessity should be given out of the workhouse, such churchwarden or overseer shall, if possible, cause the same to be given by the relieving officer for such parish or place; but if such churchwarden or overseer shall give such relief himself, he shall forthwith report the same in writing to such relieving officer." Does it not appear from that rule, that the churchwardens and overseers have the power of giving relief in the cases alluded to?—It does, and he did give the relief, and the medical man did not attend to it.

7365. The medical man was under contract to attend to the orders of the overseers?—Yes.

7366. In that particular case, if relief was not given, do you ascribe the fault to the rules of the Commissioners, or the contract, or to the medical officer?—In that instance, I ascribe it to the medical officer.

7367. That medical officer being under a contract to give medical relief to any person for whom he had received any order from the churchwardens or overseers, without inquiring whether the party was a pauper or not?—Yes.

7368. Mr. *Fielden.*] You say the relief was given; you mean an order was given by the overseer; but the doctor did not obey the order?—That is my information.

7369. But you have stated that afterwards, in this case, the relieving officer refused to give the order?—He refused to see the case; I would not state whether the relieving officer gave the order subsequently or not, for I am not clear in my own mind upon that point.

7370. Mr. *Chichester.*] You state that the relieving officer absolutely refused to go into the house at the request of the overseer?—Yes.

7371. *Chairman.*] Do I understand you correctly to have said, that you can prove that in many instances death had ensued from the want of medical relief being given?—As far as my information goes, and my own opinion, I do believe that death has ensued; but I am not in a condition to prove whether the persons would have died or not, if they had had timely relief; but that is not only my impression, but the impression of intelligent persons acquainted with the circumstances which I have detailed.

7372. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Have you any facts beyond these, that there was neglect and that there was death?—I have named two or three cases of that description.

7373. Mr. *Chichester.*] Where death has ensued from neglect?—I have; I have named Elizabeth Herbert and Ruth Cole; there was neglect; whether they would have died if they had had timely relief, I am not in a condition to say; but my impression is, that there was great neglect.

7374. Mr. *Fielden.*] A question has been put to you as to what is the law relative to the administration of relief; you are only acquainted with what is the law from reading the Act of Parliament, or having heard it read?—That is all.

7375. You speak to the practice that prevails, rather than to what the law requires?—It is to the practice that I allude.

7376. Have you read in the parliamentary debates of the excellent administration of the new law in the Ampthill Union?—I have.

7377. *Chairman.*] To what are you alluding?—To a speech in the House of Commons.

7378. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you, from your inquiries on the spot, found the practice, as far as your observation has gone, to be very different from what you read was the practice in that speech?—I have.

7379. What was the result of the denial of medical relief to Bernard Chappel and his family?—That the overseer applied to the relieving officer, stated to him the distressed state of the case, and wished the relieving officer to go and see them, and the relieving officer was going past and would not call; whether the relieving officer subsequently gave an order upon the medical officer, I am not prepared to say.

7380. Do you know whether the family suffered in a way which perhaps might have been prevented, in consequence of the denial of this medical relief?—I believe

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they had no medical relief, and that they were in a very distressed state; I am not aware that she had any medical relief at all; they were in great poverty.

7381. You stated that there was an apprehension that this was typhus fever?—She was very poorly, and typhus fever was in the neighbourhod at the time; I am not sure whether it was typhus fever or not, but they were afraid it was, because other people in the neighbourhood had it.

7382. Mr. *Chichester.*] What was her disease?—I saw her a fortnight or three weeks after, and she was in a poor way; but I am not a doctor, and I cannot state what her disease was.

7383. She had no medical attendance?—She had not.

7384. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is there any other case similar to that which you have detailed, of a denial of medical relief; do you recollect a person of the name of Page, in Flitwick parish?—I do, but I am not sufficiently acquainted with that case to give an explanation of it at present.

7385. The person who accompanied you will be better able to speak to that than you are yourself?—Yes.

7386. You have now stated the sufferings and distress of many able-bodied persons; I wish now to draw your attention to the case of aged persons, widows, and children; you published a second letter; you have already given evidence on the first; will you take the newspaper containing your letter, copied from the "Northern Star," and read it?—The cases in the letter are, "James Somerville, aged 68, has no wife; this old man used to have 2*s.* 6*d.* weekly relief, before the new law was passed; but since, he has had 1*s.* taken off, and now he receives 1*s.* 6*d.*; this old man is very kindly dealt with; he may work, and earn a shilling if he can; then if he does not like it, he can go to prison, that is, to the great house; so you see how much this poor man is benefited by the new law. Thomas Bunker, aged 70, an old man who used to have 2*s.* a week from the parish, but since the new law was passed, has had nothing; the reason assigned is, that he is an able-bodied man; but if so, many young men cannot get work; how then is an old man to get work? But how is such a man to live? He is not an able-bodied man, but he is told that he may go to the workhouse, that is, he may go to prison; to this he objects, and would sooner die. Susan Deacon, a widow, aged 49, has five children, the eldest 18, the youngest 8; when the new law was passed, this widow had 7*s.* per week; it was reduced afterwards to 5*s.* 6*d.*; she applied to the board of guardians to have the 1*s.* 6*d.* put on again; the chairman told her she ought to be ashamed of herself, and she was ordered to withdraw; she did so, and they reduced her pay again to 4*s.* 3*d.*, and that she was to have in bread; not content with this, they had another go, and took all off; she must not have any; what was she to do then? Why, she might go down to Derby, into the silk factories, where there was plenty of work for her and her children; it was not far, about 100 miles; to this she objected, and must therefore have no more relief, and no more has she had; one of her sons is out of work, the rest are plaiters of straw, and earn about 6*s.* per week; she pays no rent, for the hut she lives in stands on some waste ground; how she lives is quite unaccountable even to herself; but she may go to prison if she likes. This she objects to, and while she and her children can get one bit of bread and potato once a day, she will not go there. Sarah Jellis is aunt to four orphan children, whom she has brought up. When she took these children, the oldest was 13, the youngest was a few days old, the mother having died of childbirth. She had with these children 9*s.* per week, up to the building of the 'great house,' after which the board of guardians took off 1*s.*, and then took off two more. Very soon after they took the other two, and this reduced the allowance to 4*s.*; they afterwards took all off. This was all done in less than 12 months; and she was ordered to the board. I suppose they felt ashamed at what they had done, for they gave her 2*s.* a week afterwards, one in money and one in bread. This she continues to receive. In this state she applied to her brother to take one of her children; he did so. One went to see her grandmother at Christmas, and has stopped there. The oldest of these is a poor helpless creature, who will never be able to get his own victuals. On asking this woman how they lived, she burst into tears, and said, 'God only knows, for I cannot tell you.' Sarah Cox, a widow, aged 43 years, has been a widow five years; has six children, the oldest 22, the youngest 5; the two oldest have fits. This widow had, when the new law was passed, 5*s.* per week from the parish; it was afterwards reduced to 4*s.*, and soon afterwards again to 3*s.* They then called her before the

board

board of guardians, and told her she must go to the factory in Lancashire. To this she objected; and they told her they had nothing more to do with her, and she has never had any thing from them since. The children plait straw; but on account of the oldest having fits, they cannot do much in that line. She has 1*s.* per week to pay for rent; whether she has any bread or not, it will cost her at the least 1*s.* 6*d.* for firing; their earnings will not exceed 8*s.* This is a very distressed family; but because she refused to go to the factories she was not to have any thing. Charlotte Palmer, a widow, aged 55, has five children; the oldest 16, the youngest 10. This woman has been a widow 10 years. At the time of her husband's death she was possessed of property in the parish where she now resides; but, owing to circumstances over which she had no control, she was deprived of it, and became chargeable to the parish; and before the passing of the new law she received 5*s.* per week. After the passing of the new law it was very soon reduced to 1*s.*; and by and by that also was taken off, and she was ordered to the board, a distance of 3 miles, and 3 miles back." There is an error here, I said 13, but it is three miles. "When she got there, they told her she and her family must go to Leeds, to the factories. To this she objected, and they told her they had nothing more to do with her. So much for the widows being better off than they used to be. I will now state another case to you, which will make your blood run cold, if such a thing is possible. John Huckleby, aged 24, has a wife and two children. Now mind, this man is a man of very respectable character; this man has had very little work since harvest. About three weeks ago his wife was confined; and owing to his having no work, she was ill provided for such an occasion. When she was confined she had only a small portion of bread. After having been confined about a week, she had no fire, no food; in fact, she had not any thing. In this distressing situation her husband applied to the relieving officer. This was on Thursday, and the answer he received was, he could not do any thing for them unless the husband would go to the workhouse, to which he consented; and on the Monday evening following she was relieved with 4*s.* 6*d.*, 1*s.* 6*d.* of which she had to pay for rent, leaving her with 3*s.* Now this woman was left in a house by herself (having been confined a few days) with two children, no one to lift a hand for her, and the husband sent to prison, that is to the workhouse, for being poor. Now, sirs, what do you, and what do the people of the north think of a law which can inflict such unheard-of cruelty on a poor woman at this inclement season, when in 'nature's sorrow.' I will not say any thing more about it, for I fear I should be thought violent."

7387. The first case you have read is the case of James Somerville, aged 68, does he reside in the parish of Westoning?—He does.

7388. Have you seen the returns made by the parish officers of the relief which this man was receiving?—I have, I have examined them this morning.

7389. Have you seen that this man is put down in those parish returns as being infirm?—I have; he is so reported.

7390. Did you find that till the union was established he had 3*s.* a week?—I did.

7391. And 2*s.* 6*d.* afterwards until the second week in the year 1836-7?—Yes.

7392. And 1*s.* 6*d.* since?—Yes, that is according to the returns which have been ordered by this Committee.

7393. Is that the statement that you received from this poor man, or those who know what he had before you saw the returns at all?—It is; I had published the statement, and I found this morning, on looking over the returns, that they had given me a correct statement, and he is now receiving 1*s.* 6*d.* a week.

7394. Will you state what are the circumstances of that man, and any thing you wish to observe upon that case?—I found him an old man, 68 years of age; he lives in a house belonging to the parish, and he has 1*s.* 6*d.* to live upon; and how he lives I cannot describe.

7395. His relief from the parish has been reduced from 3*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* since the passing of the new law?—It has.

7396. *Chairman.*] This man is entered as 65; on the 7th of April 1836, in the list of pauper applications I find the name of Somerville receiving 2*s.* 6*d.* a week; I find that he lives rent-free, and that he suffers with pain in his feet; and that his application was to retain the allowance, and that the order is that he should be allowed 1*s.* 6*d.* a week; do you know whether this man was in employment at the time?—I do not consider him capable of doing much work.

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7397. Do you know whether he was in employment at the time?—I do not know whether he was at that time.

7398. Do you know that he was not in employment at that time?—I do not.

7399. Do you know whether he was earning 3*s.* a week at that time?—I do not.

7400. If he were earning 3*s.* a week at the time, would you not have thought it desirable to ascertain that fact, and state that with the other circumstances of the case?—At the time I wrote my letter he was not earning any thing; that I am confident of.

7401. When was that?—January 1838.

7402. Here is an entry of the case of Somerville, in the year preceding the formation of the union, in which it appears that at one time he received 3*s.*, at one time 1*s.*, at one time 2*s.* 6*d.*, at another time 2*s.*, at another time 3*s.*; so that the relief in the year preceding the formation of the union appears to have varied considerably?—In my letter, I stated that he had 2*s.* 6*d.* before the union was formed, in which I am borne out by the returns.

7403. You do not know whether the man is now receiving wages for work, do you?—He was out of work when I wrote this, and I believe he is out of work now.

7404. Did you ascertain from him whether he had been in work during the preceding year?—He had very little work; the statement which he made to me was, "I am allowed to get a shilling a week, if I can, but I cannot earn any thing; I can get nothing to do."

7405. Was he earning 3*s*, a week?—Not at the time to which I allude; he might have been earning that some years before.

7406. During the year preceding January 1838, did you not hear that he had earned 3*s.* a week?—No; his answer was, "I am allowed to do a job, if I can get a job to do, but I cannot."

7407. You say allow; who is to prevent him, if he can get work, from doing it?—The board of guardians refuses to allow a man to earn any thing, who receives 2*s.* 6*d.* a week; they are not allowed to do a job; if they do, they are threatened to have their pay taken off.

7408. Do you mean to say that the board of guardians tell the people, that if they earn any thing their pay will be taken off?—I mean to say that people have frequently told me so.

7409. At this time the man was receiving only 1*s.* 6*d.* a week?—He was receiving 1*s.* 6*d.*; they would not be so strict, therefore, with him, as if he had 2*s.* 6*d.*.; and that was what the man said he was allowed to do.

7410. Did that man tell you that he had made any application to the board?—He said, as other people did, they durst not make application for fear what they had should be stopped; that is the general impression.

7411. In this particular case of Somerville, he received 1*s.* 6*d.* a week from the parish, and he described himself to be in great distress; you having published the case to the world as a case of great distress, I ask you whether you did ever ask him whether he ever applied to the board for additional assistance?—I did.

7412. What was his answer to you?—His statement was, that he durst not apply for fear his 1*s.* 6*d.* should be taken off too.

7413. Did he state any reason for making that declaration?—That he was afraid; the 1*s.* being taken away, had produced a fear on his mind that that power which had taken 1*s.* might take the 1*s.* 6*d.*

7414. Do you mean that if a man is incapable of work, he is deterred from making application to the board, from an apprehension of the relief which he receives being taken off?—That is the apprehension in his own mind; he does not make application for fear it should be taken off.

7415. Can you produce one instance in which a man of the age you described, by illness incapacitated from working, has had his relief diminished or taken away by the board?—No.

7416. Can you state any thing to justify this impression?—The fact of his having 1*s.* 6*d.* now, when he used to have 2*s.* 6*d.*, left an impression upon his mind that he had better have 1*s.* 6*d.* than have less.

7417. The man is three years older than he was when the pay was reduced from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*?—Yes.

7418. His infirmities have increased?—Yes.

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7419. He is more incapable of supporting himself than he was then?—Yes.

7420. He is in a state of great infirmity and weakness?—Yes.

7421. Have you any facts which justify you in saying that if a man, with the infirmity which belongs to this man, and of his age, had applied to the board they would have refused him assistance?—I have no facts before me which justify that, but I stated that as the impression upon his mind.

7422. You have no facts justifying your own impression upon the subject, or justifying his apprehension?—I have not.

7423. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have given this statement to the public as a fact, and the fact which is detailed in your statement is, that he had his allowance from the parish reduced from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a week?—He had.

7424. And in that statement there is this observation, "This old man is very kindly dealt with;" you did not wish to convey the idea that this was one of the harshest cases which you could bring before the public?—No; what I meant by being kindly dealt with was, that if he earned a shilling they would not stop his pay.

7425. You say, "He may work and earn a shilling if he can, then if he does not like it he may go to prison; that is to the great house:"—That is the statement.

7426. That is the statement you made in public print, and that statement is confirmed as to the fact of his relief having been reduced, not from 2*s.* 6*d.*, but from 3*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* since the formation of the union?—He had not 3*s.* when the union was formed, but he had previous to the union; but it was brought to 2*s.* 6*d.* and then to 1*s.* 6*d.*

7427. You have no reason to disbelieve the statement of this man, but you find it confirmed by the parish returns?—Yes.

7428. In the parish returns the man is put down as being infirm, in their books?—He is.

7429. Being infirm, do you think he is capable of supporting himself in the way that old men, like him, ought to live, by having 1*s.* 6*d.* only from the parish?—I think not; I think it is a hard case.

7430. Have you heard any thing disreputable to the character of this man?—I have not.

7431. Mr. *Baines.*] When the sum was reduced from 3*s.*, or from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*, did you ask the man whether he was in work or not?—I did not.

7432. Then, if you find that he was in work, and that he was earning 3*s.* a week, you would not be surprised that the allowance should be reduced from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*?—I should not have been surprised at that, but I should be surprised at the reduction continuing when the man was not earning any thing.

7433. Had he, in addition to 1*s.* 6*d.*, any other income when the reduction took place from 2*s.* 6*d.*?—I do not know.

7434. Do not you think, in ascertaining the fact that there had been a reduction in the allowance from the parish, it would have been desirable to have ascertained whether he had any other income or not?—I could not imagine that he could have much for an income, he being lame and not capable of doing much work, and knowing that so many able-bodied were out of work.

7435. *Chairman.*] Did you ask him the question?—I did not.

7436. Did you take any pains to ascertain the fact whether he was in employment, and at what wages, by inquiring of him or any other person?—I did; the answer he gave me was, "If I can earn a shilling a week, I am allowed to do it, but I cannot get it."

7437. Mr. *Baines.*] At the time when that reduction took place in his allowance, had he any other income?—I am not aware whether he had or not.

7438. Do you not think that it would have been desirable that that fact should have been ascertained?—I took it for granted that he had no other income but the 1*s.* 6*d.*, from the statement which he made—"I am not able to do any work." Whether he was getting 3*s.* a week or not, I never knew; I never knew it till I heard it here; it may be true.

7439. If it was true, a great deal of what you consider the hardship of the case would be removed?—If it was true, and it was a continuation of 3*s.* a week in addition to 1*s.* 6*d.*, I should never have published it; but I do not believe that he was constantly in the receipt of 3*s.* a week.

7440. But you say you did not inquire into it, your object being to inquire into the whole truth; ought you not to have ascertained whether he had any thing

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in addition to his parish allowance?—As I stated before, I am not aware that he had 3*s*. a week; and when I asked him how it was that he was reduced, and what account he could give of the reduction having taken place, the answer was, "I might do a day's work, if I could get one to do."

7441. You do not know whether he had 3*s*. a week or not?—My impression is that he did not have it constantly.

7442. That is impression, not fact?—I have not fact to go upon.

7443. Do you know whether he was in the employment of a farmer of the name of Parker?—I do not.

7444. Do you not think that that was an inquiry that ought to have been made?—I know that he was not at the time I wrote that letter.

7445. After he was reduced from 2*s*. 6*d*. to 1*s*. 6*d*. a week, do you know that he ever made a further application to the parish officer for relief?—I do not believe he did.

7446. And you state as the reason for that, that he had an apprehension that the 1*s*. 6*d*. might probably itself be taken off, if he did?—That was his apprehension.

7447. That does not appear to be an apprehension founded upon any fact that you have deduced?—The reason why he apprehended that was; I do not mean that I believe it would have been done, I do not believe that; but the reason why he was afraid of its being done was, because they had taken off 1*s*.

7448. *Chairman*.] You do not believe, yourself, that it would have been done?—I do not; but he believed so himself, and he was frightened.

7449. Mr. *Baines*.] Suppose at the time when the reduction took place this man had an income of 4*s*. 6*d*. a week, 3*s*. from one source and 1*s*. 6*d*. from another source, and he never subsequently applied to the parish officer to represent any alteration in his state; how were the parish officers to know that his state did not continue as it was at that time?—They could soon have known, if they had ascertained whether he was in employment or not.

7450. The parish officers do not go round to know whether a man is in employment or not; if a man is in distress, he applies to the parish officer and makes a representation of his case; if he did not do that, was it to be expected that the parish officers would make an application to him, and ask him whether he was in the same situation as he was before or not?—I do not think they would.

7451. Was there any fault in the parish officer at all in not making this discovery, supposing any alteration to have taken place in his circumstances?—What I complained of was, that they had reduced this old man at this age from 2*s*. 6*d*. to 1*s*. 6*d*.

7452. You say, if he had earned 3*s*. a week at the time, it would have been a justification to the board of guardians to reduce the amount from 2*s*. 6*d*. to 1*s*. 6*d*.?—If the board of guardians reduces the pay from 2*s*. 6*d*. to 1*s*. 6*d*. because a man is earning 3*s*. for two or three weeks, there is no justification why they should continue this reduction if the man was not in constant work.

7453. Have you any evidence that it was only for two or three weeks that he had work; might it not have been for two or three months?—I have no evidence to the fact whether it was or was not.

7454. From that period up to the period that you made the investigation, had this man ever applied to the board of guardians or to the relieving officer, stating that his circumstances were altered, and that he required further relief?—I stated before that I believed he had not made any subsequent application.

7455. Mr. *Fielden*.] This was an aged man at the time the union was formed, and you found him entered on the parish books as infirm; have you seen the man?—I have.

7456. Do you think that he is almost incapacitated from labour to any extent?—I do think so; he is called infirm, and he is infirm.

7457. If he had occasional employment, have you reason to believe that it is given more for charity than for the value of the labour that he performs?—If he has any work it is merely breaking clots; I do not think him capable of doing work more than that.

7458. But the fact which you wish the public to be acquainted with is this; that this man had 2*s*. 6*d*. before the passing of the new law, (and, in fact, 3*s*.), and he has subsequently been reduced to 1*s*. 6*d*.?—It is.

7459. And

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7459. And you leave the public to judge as to whether the man's capabilities have increased or have not increased?—That is what I published it for, that the public might judge of the case itself.

7460. At the time you saw this man, you took the information from him as he gave it to you?—I did.

7461. He told you at that time that he was out of work?—He did; he was out of work at the time.

7462. And being confirmed in the truth of his observation, from the fact that the pay that he has received is recorded in the parish books, have you any reason to doubt the truth of the man's statement that he was out of work?—I have not.

7463. Another case which you have is the case of Samuel Bonner; will you state his case to the Committee?—This is in the parish of Westoning; Samuel Bonner is 77 years of age; I stated that before the new Poor Law was passed he used to have 2*s.* 6*d.* a week; it was afterwards taken off, and now he does not receive any thing.

7464. Have you looked at the returns for Westoning?—I have.

7465. Do you find that he stands in those returns as an infirm man?—He is called infirm.

7466. Do you find that he received 2*s.* 6*d.* till the union was formed, and for the nine first weeks after the union was formed, the same sum?—He did for several weeks after the union was formed.

7467. Then his allowance of 2*s.* 6*d.* appears to be discontinued, from those returns?—It does.

7468. The 42d week in those returns you find that he has 2*s.* allowed him again?—Yes.

7469. This was continued for 13 weeks of the second year of the union, and then withdrawn?—Yes; that was the account which I found on examining the returns.

7470. Do you know whether he has since applied for relief, and been refused?—His statement to me is, that he applied to the board, and they told him that if he could not do, he might go into the house.

7471. *Chairman.*] How long had this man received relief from the parish before the union was formed?—I am not aware.

7472. Do you know whether he had been in the habit of receiving relief for some years?—I do not.

7473. In what house was he living?—In a house for which he states that he has 1*s.* 2*d.* a week to pay for rent.

7474. Is he capable of doing work?—All the work that he does is, that some of the farmers allow him to gather stones on their land, and he gathers stones, and sells them.

7475. What can he earn at that?—Sometimes he gets a shilling, and sometimes he cannot.

7476. And he pays for rent, 1*s.* 2*d.*?—If you will allow me, I will state the rest of the family that lives in the house; he has a daughter 40 years of age, who is a cripple, and lame, and not able to help herself, nor is she able to go across the floor: she receives 2*s.* a week, and they have a girl living with them about 13 years of age, to whom he is grandfather; this girl earns about 1*s.* 6*d.* a week, by making plait; with that and the 2*s.* allowed by the parish, which makes 3*s.* 6*d.*, and he now and then makes 1*s.* by gathering stones upon the farmers' land, they live; they have 1*s.* 2*d.* to pay for rent; and his statement is, "I sometimes get 1*s.* by gathering stones, and sometimes more and sometimes not even that."

7477. Mr. *Baines.*] That would be 4*s.* 3*d.* for three persons?—Yes; the day I was in his house he was paring some potatoes for their dinner, and they were just like paring pieces of ice, and that was to be their dinner; it shone just as ice does when it is cut.

7478. Mr. *Fielden.*] The family consisted of the old man and the daughter, who was incapable of doing any thing, and the young girl who plaited straw?—Yes.

7479. *Chairman.*] If those facts are true, if the man is paying 1*s.* 2*d.* a week for his rent, and only occasionally earns 1*s.* a week, and receives no relief, and his daughter is incapable of maintaining him, how do you imagine that the man continues to live and pay his rent?—That I cannot tell; but he pays his rent, whether he has any bread or not.

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7480. You suppose that he pays his rent, whether he has any bread or not, and his earnings are what you describe them; how then do you account for his living?—I cannot tell how he lives; he cannot tell me himself.

7481. That being upon the face of it an incredible statement, do you not suppose that there is some mistake in it?—I have stated it to various individuals; I did not take this statement, before I published it, on his own account only; I asked several individuals, and they stated what they saw; they all confirmed it, and that how he lived they could not tell.

7482. Among the inquiries you made, did you inquire of the board of guardians, or of the relieving officer, or of the clerk of the union, or any body who could give you information upon the subject, as to what were the reasons why the board had discontinued relief?—I am not aware that I did in that case; I sometimes did ask the clerk, when I met him, respecting extreme cases; but I do not remember that I did in that case.

7483. But, being puzzled by statements apparently contradictory you did not take any steps to ascertain what were the reasons that induced the board to discontinue relief?—I am not sure that I did.

7484. The man had been receiving 2*s.* 6*d.* a week from the board?—That is my statement.

7485. He had received that for a considerable time?—Yes.

7486. Did you ever hear this reason assigned for the relief being discontinued, "that at the time he was receiving 2*s.* 6*d.* from the board, and during the whole summer that he had received that relief, he having stated that he was out of work, he had been working for the Duke of Bedford, earning regularly 9*s.* a week"?—I never did hear that.

7487. If that statement should be true, would not that materially alter the circumstances of this case?—If that were true, it would naturally make the board of guardians more inquisitive about giving him relief.

7488. Would it not lead the board of guardians to be extremely cautious in giving relief to a man who had deceived them in this manner?—It certainly would; I was not aware of it; I took the case as I found it, and I have examined the returns, and found it to be correct as to the amount of relief.

7489. Mr. *Hodges.*] Did you ask whether he was then in employment under the Duke of Bedford?—He was not in employment at that time.

7490. Have you never heard of his being in the Duke of Bedford's employment?—No; it is the first I have heard of it.

7491. At the time that he stated that the relief was discontinued, did he state to you that it was in consequence of being employed by anybody?—He did not state what was the reason of its being discontinued; but that before the new law was passed he had the money, and subsequently it was taken from him.

7492. Did he tell you that he had not been employed since the new law?—I asked him how he contrived to live, and he said he earned now and then a shilling a week by selling stones.

7493. He stated that that was all the employment he had?—Yes.

7494. Mr. *Baines.*] Would you not think that it was a merit in the new law, if the man, having had 9*s.* a week for a length of time, and having suppressed the information of his having had the 9*s.* a week, the vigilance of the parish officers, under the new Poor Law, had discovered and put an end to that imposition?—There could not be much merit in it, because, under the old system, the parish officers would have known whether he was working or not; they would have known if it had occurred, when they had the management of their own affairs.

7495. But you do not suppose that if the parish officers had known that he was receiving 9*s.* a week, they would have allowed him 2*s.* 6*d.*?—I am speaking now of the overseers of the parish of Westoning.

7496. Do you mean that the overseers, under those circumstances, if they had known that he was earning 9*s.* a week, would have given him 2*s.* 6*d.*?—I should think they would not, if he had been continuing for a long time to receive it.

7497. Mr. *Fielden.*] It appears from the returns, that this infirm man had 2*s.* 6*d.* till the union, and for nine of the first weeks after the union was formed; at the end of those nine weeks the 2*s.* 6*d.* was discontinued, as appears from the parish relief books; but at the 42d week in the same year, 2*s.* is again given him by the union, and continued for 13 weeks of the second year; so that if this man has been practising a deception in that time, have not the guardians

guardians been equally as negligent as the overseers that preceded the guardians were?—Yes; he was for so many weeks receiving money, and then employ, and received it again.

7498. Did this old man tell you that since the 2*s.* had been discontinued, he had applied for relief but been refused?—He did.

7499. Was the answer given to him, according to his own account, that he might go into the house, which he dreaded?—That is the statement which he made to me.

7500. Could the man be ignorant of his application for relief; and if such application was made have not you reason to think that application must be recorded in the books of the union?—I should think so.

7501. Mr. *Baines.*] The man for a number of weeks did not receive any relief at all from the parish?—According to the returns, he was.

7502. Do you know the reason why the relief was entirely stopped?—I do not.

7503. Then, for a number of weeks, he did receive relief; do you know why he received relief again?—I do not.

7504. *Chairman.*] Samuel Bonner seems to have applied for relief on the 10th week of the quarter ending the 24th December 1837, and he was then offered the workhouse?—That was the statement he made to me.

7505. But if it had appeared before that this man had practised an imposition upon the board of guardians for a considerable time, and had been receiving for some time 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, stating himself to be out of employment, and the board of guardians had discovered that during the period he was receiving the 2*s.* 6*d.*, stating himself to be out of employment, he was employed at 9*s.* a week wages, would not that have been a reason with the board of guardians to refuse such a man out-door relief?—Certainly; supposing that to be true.

7506. Mr. *Fielden.*] You did make inquiry on the spot among the neighbours of this man; and has the account which you have received from the man himself, been corroborated to a considerable extent?—It has, by various individuals whom I have asked.

7507. Do you think that he could have practised such a deception as has been alluded to in the questions which have been put, without some of the neighbours knowing it?—It looks to me extremely curious that I should have made the inquiries which I did, and never discover that.

7508. Did you in your visits, see a person of the name of Thomas Bunker, whom you have given a statement of in your letter?—I published an account of Thomas Bunker's case.

7509. You state his age to be 70; will you state to the Committee what you have heard of Thomas Bunker?—I find in the returns, that Thomas Bunker is entered as infirm, of the parish of Westoning; this man used to have 2*s.* a week from the parish, but since the new law was passed he had nothing. He applied to the board, but all they say to him is, "You may go to the house;" this man is not a very able man to work at 70 years of age, if he had work to do.

7510. Do you find in the returns before the union, that this man is stated to have received 4*s.* a week?—I do; I find that, on examining the returns.

7511. Do you find in the same returns, that he has 2*s.* 8*d.*, 4*s.*, 3*s.* 4*d.*, 6*d.*, 1*s.*, 1*s.* 6*d.*, 2*s.* 6*d.*, 1*s.*, 2*s.*, 3*s.*, 3*s.*, 2*s.*, 2*s.* 6*d.*, 1*s.* 6*d.*, 3*s.*, in all 6*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* in the year preceding the union?—That is what I find in the returns.

7512. Then do you further find that 18*s.* was paid to him at different periods after the union, and then partially discontinued?—Yes; that is what I find in the returns.

7513. And 2*s.* a week for four weeks?—Yes.

7514. Then, discontinued for four weeks; 4*s.* 6*d.* in two weeks; discontinued three weeks; one week 1*s.*; one week 2*s.* 3*d.*; one week 3*s.* 4½*d.*; one week 2*s.* 3*d.* making 7*s.* 6*d.* for three weeks; then discontinued?—That is correct.

7515. Two weeks 2*s.* 6*d.* for each week, making a total of 2*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*?—Yes, that is what I find.

7516. In the 45th week of the parochial year 1835, this relief was withdrawn, and he has had nothing since?—That is correct, according to the statement which I have published, and when I referred to the returns I found that I was borne out by them.

7517. Did you find, upon inquiry, that this man bore an excellent character; that he worked 25 years at one place, for one master?—I did.

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7518. Do you know whether this man made any application to the relieving officer, or to the board of guardians, for relief, after it had been discontinued?—He states that he did, and that he was offered the workhouse.

7519. *Chairman.*] This man is 70 years of age; is he paying rent?—He is living with his son; his son has a large family of seven or eight children; and his son lets him live with him, without paying any rent.

7520. What is his son?—A labourer, earning the ordinary wages of 9*s.* a week.

7521. The son has a large family, and is incapable of assisting him, from the size of his family?—Exactly.

7522. Has he any other relations capable of assisting him?—I am not aware that he has.

7523. Did the man explain to you, in any way, the reasons why his relief was discontinued?—He did not; he attributed it to the new law being passed.

7524. Did he state to you any reasons, by which the board of guardians could have been governed in refusing relief?—He did not; I asked him "Why was this relief stopped?" he said, "They considered that I could get work; and I must work and help myself."

7525. You are aware that there is nothing in the provisions of the law, or the rules of the Commissioners, which would have precluded the board of guardians from giving relief to this man, if they had thought proper?—If they had thought proper, they could have done it.

7526. Then we must presume that there was some reason in the discretion of the board of guardians, inducing them to refuse him out-door relief?—Certainly.

7527. You do not know what that reason was?—I do not.

7528. Bunker appears to have applied in the 12th week of the quarter ending the 24th of December 1836, and he was offered the workhouse; his age is entered 68 in the year 1836; what has the man been doing for the last year and a quarter, since the relief was refused him out of the workhouse?—He gets a day's work when he can, but he cannot do much; he is not a stout man, but he is not so feeble as the other man that I named, but he is not able to do much work; he lives with his son, and gets a living with him.

7529. Did he tell you what he earned?—No; one gentleman is very kind to him, "And if it was not for him," he said, "I should starve to death." He goes over to him now and then.

7530. Who is that gentleman?—Mr. Whitehurst.

7531. The clergyman living in Ampthill?—Yes.

7532. Do you know what the man is in the habit of earning at Mr. Whitehurst's?—One shilling a day when he does go there.

7533. That would be 6*s.* a week?—But he is there only now and then.

7534. Is he there half his time?—I asked him that question, if he was there half his time, and he said, "No."

7535. Do you suppose him to earn from 2*s.* to 3*s.* every week?—I suppose that he would get about that; it is very difficult to get at the exact facts, but I endeavoured to see how much he could earn, and he said, "I go two or three days a week to Mr. Whitehurst's, and if it was not for him I should starve."

7536. Suppose him to earn 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, living, as he does, rent-free with his son, would he require out-door relief?—But this is, as far as I can judge, given to him on account of his good character, more from charity than from any thing else.

7537. But, supposing that this man was earning from 2*s.* to 3*s.* a week with this gentleman, whatever might be the reasons which induced this gentleman to give him employment, do you think the board of guardians would be justified in ordering relief for a man under those circumstances?—I think they ought to give him a trifle; it is a small allowance for a man to live upon.

7538. You think that a small allowance for a man living rent-free, and living in his son's family?—It is not too much.

7539. Mr. *Fielden.*] This man did complain to you of the harsh treatment he had received when he had applied for parish relief?—He did.

7540. You state that he had worked 25 years in one place, was a man of good character, and was 70 years of age?—That was so.

7541. Do

7541. Do you think that the man would have made an application at all to the parish if he had not been in distress?—I am sure he would not; I think so, however.

7542. Does not the fact which is admitted and proved, that he had made application to the parish and was refused relief, confirm you in the opinion that this man has been unkindly treated under the new Poor Law?—It does confirm it.

7543. You have met with a case of Susan Deacon, whose circumstances you have published in this letter?—I have.

7544. What you have detailed in this letter is the statement you received from her as to her case?—It is.

7545. Will you state what the facts are; she resides in the parish of Flitwick?—Susan Deacon is a widow, aged 49 years; she has five children; the oldest is 18, and the youngest eight years; when the new law was passed, this widow had 7*s.* a week, and then it was reduced to 5*s.* 6*d.*, and then she applied to have her 1*s.* 6*d.* restored to her again, and the chairman told her she ought to be ashamed of herself; and then they made another reduction down to 4*s.* 3*d.*; it was afterwards reduced to nothing; it was all taken off, and she might go down to Derby, if she liked, to the factories; if she would not go there, she must have no relief, and none has she had since.

7546. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you know the earnings of her children?—About 6*s.* a week; the children are plaiting straw.

7547. *Chairman.*] What are her own earnings?—There is no account of her own earnings.

7548. Is she capable of plaiting straw?—I think not.

7549. Why not?—I am not aware that she could plait.

7550. Had she the use of her hands?—Yes.

7551. If she could not plait, she might do some other sort of work?—Yes.

7552. Did you ask her what her earnings were?—Her answer was, "We can make 6*s.* by plaiting straw when the straws are all paid for;" the oldest of her children was out of work at the time I published this statement.

7553. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you find, in the returns of the relief afforded to this woman, that she had received 7*s.* a week for 10 weeks before the union?—That is what I find in the returns.

7554. She then had 5*s.* for two weeks, 7*s.* for three weeks, 12*s.*; one week; 7*s.*, 27 weeks; 7*s.*, nine weeks; that brings you up to the end of the old law?—Yes, that is what I found in the returns when I examined them.

7555. The first eight weeks of the union this woman had 4*s.* 3*d.*; 4*s.* 9*d.* the next nine weeks; 4*s.* 6*d.* the next thirteen weeks; 4*s.*, seven weeks; 3*s.*, six weeks, to the end of the year; 3*s.*, two weeks; and 2*s.* one week, the year after?—That is what I find.

7556. In 1837, in the eleventh week, this woman had 8*s.*?—That was at the time when they had the small-pox in the house; they were afflicted with the small-pox for about a month or five weeks, and some relief was allowed them then.

7557. The next week she had 10*s.*; and the next week, 31*s.*; then two weeks, 10*s.*; one week, 6*s.*; four weeks, 2*s.*, and then your statement is, that the workhouse was offered?—The return states that the workhouse was offered to her.

7558. Do you know that this widow woman made application for relief to the relieving officer or to the guardians?—Yes, and it was refused, and she was to go to the workhouse; I am not aware that she made any subsequent application at that time; she states that she will not go into the workhouse under any circumstances, if she could get one piece of bread and one bit of potato once a day.

7559. During the time that she received this large amount of relief for the three weeks, the nurse, it appears, from the same returns, had 3*s.* a week out of it for seven weeks?—Yes, that is what the 31*s.* is for.

7560. What objections did you hear from this woman; or did you hear any objections urged by this woman against removing into the manufacturing districts?—She stated that she had done nothing amiss, and that she did not wish to be transported; she would rather stay in her own country.

7561. Did you see her children?—I did.

7562. Are they such as would be likely to obtain employment in the manufacturing districts at higher wages than they received when they work in Bedfordshire

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fordshire?—The youngest would not be employed in the factories for some years to come.

7563. Do you think, that had the family gone into the manufacturing districts she would have increased her income, after she had got there?—She might have increased her income some little, if she had gone, but she would not have been better off if she had.

7564. She would not have obtained such an increase of her income in the manufacturing districts, as to have improved her circumstances from what they now are?—If she had she would have been different from many families that I have visited, that have removed from the agricultural districts to the manufacturing districts; I have not seen many that have improved their condition.

7565. From your knowledge of the manufacturing districts, should you say that this woman would have suffered severely, had she gone into the manufacturing districts?—She would; many have suffered that have gone.

7566. Was it in consequence of her refusal to go, that she was offered the workhouse?—Yes.

7567. Do you believe that her statement is confirmed by the accounts which you have since seen?—I have every reason to believe that it was true.

7568. Mr. *Baines.*] What was the age of the second child?—I am not able to anwer that.

7569. Do you know how many were above 13 years of age?—I do not.

7570. *Chairman.*] Did you state what the earnings of her daughters were?—She states to me about 6*s.*, what she and her children could earn, is about 6*s.* a week.

7571. She has a grown-up daughter living with her?—I believe she has.

7572. Do you know the price of straw plaiting?—It varies; they get the straws from persons who sell them; and they make their plait, and it fetches a better price at sometimes than at others.

7573. Do you know what a grown-up woman can earn a day, or a week, at straw plaiting?—Two shillings; there are some individuals that can earn more.

7574. Take the generality of grown-up women, what can they earn?—If they are plaiting straw, they will earn 2*s.* a week; if they are doing bents, what the Tuscan bonnets are made from, they will earn rather more; those that are doing the bents will earn 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.

7575. Was this woman doing straw, or bents?—Straw.

7576. Do you know that she had two young girls who were also plaiting straw?—She has three that plait, I believe.

7577. How much could those earn a week each?—We reckon them to earn 2*s.* a week each.

7578. That makes 6*s.*—Yes.

7579. What were the woman's earnings?—That woman stated, that when she had looked out the straws, and separated the good ones from the bad ones, she was not able to do much for them.

7580. Do you know that the mother is a straw plaiter, employed in straw plaiting?—I do not; she states that after she has looked out the straws for the others, she has no time.

7581. Do you know that she has a son, who is generally employed at piecework, and that he lives with her?—He does, and was then out of work, when I inquired into the case.

7582. Do you know that this woman acts as a midwife?—I know that she does, in very few cases; but it is a very few cases that she attends to.

7583. Do you know that upon the average she has two midwifery cases a week, and that for each case she has 4*s.*?—She stated that she had 3*s.* for a case of that sort, but often went unpaid.

7584. If she earns any thing like 8*s.* a week, and also earns something by straw plaiting, her three children earning 6*s.* a week, would not that vary the circumstances of the case?—She does not earn that by midwifery; she says, "I now and then go, but I often do not get paid; I know that the poor people are in that condition that they cannot pay."

7585. If it should appear that she does act as a midwife, and, on the average, has two cases a week, and for each case receives 4*s.*, your statement would not appear to be accurate?—No, if that is the case; but I do not believe it to be the truth; I know, from the situation where she lives, and from the condition of the people, and from what she states; she states that she has 3*s.* a case.

7586. Admitting

7586. Admitting her own statement, that she has 3*s.* for each case of midwifery, and is only occasionally employed in those cases, and sometimes has bad debts, and cannot recover the amount, still, stating that the earnings of her three children are 6*s.* a week, we must add something for the amount of her earnings?—Yes.

7587. Therefore the earnings for the whole family, according to your statement, will be something more than 6*s.* a week?—Certainly.

7588. And therefore the 6*s.* does not represent the earnings of the family?—No, it represents the earnings of the children, without taking into account her earnings.

7589. Mr. *Wakley.*] What is the age of her son?—Eighteen.

7590. Did the family appear to be in a state of extreme destitution when you saw them?—They did; the house that they live in, if it can be called one, is one of those mud cottages; it is nearly down; the interior was destitute of furniture, and nearly destitute of fire.

7591. *Chairman.*] When you say "destitute of furniture," will you describe that?—They had no furniture in the house, with the exception of an old chair or two.

7592. Take this particular house, what did you find in this house?—I believe there were only two chairs in it, and a board put together, a sort of form, on which they sat; they had a covering, from the bed hung up, to divide one part of the house, to make it that it should not be so cold.

7593. Had they a table?—They had a table, but a very poor one.

7594. They had two chairs, one form, and a table?—Yes.

7595. Had they any kitchen utensils?—I do not remember seeing any of those, and my impression is, that if they had those, they had very few indeed.

7596. Had they beds?—In that instance, I did not look at their beds.

7597. You did not ascertain whether they had beds?—No.

7598. You do not know whether they had beds?—I do not.

7599. It appears, from your description, that the furniture was scanty and not good, but that they were not destitute of furniture?—Very scanty; the boys had got sparrows; they were without bread, boiling their sparrows and eating them for dinner.

7600. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did you see any thing in the house that you thought deserving to be called furniture?—I should not have called it furniture.

7601. *Chairman.*] What do you call chairs, table and bed?—Broken chairs I do not call furniture.

7602. Were those broken?—Yes.

7603. Do you call broken things that have been mended, no furniture?—My impression is, that they had not been mended.

7604. Mr. *Fielden.*] Those two chairs and that table constituted the most valuable part of the furniture in the house?—Yes.

7605. *Chairman.*] You, not having seen the beds, and not knowing the condition of the beds?—No.

7606. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you not learned that those people lie upon straw—Many do, the same as in a stable.

7607. *Chairman.*] Straw put loose on the ground?—Yes, and some on the floor up-stairs; and sometimes there is a mattress put upon the bed and straw put on it.

7608. Do you mean that you found the poor people generally in Bedfordshire sleeping upon straw, the same as they put down for a horse or a dog?—I did not say generally, but frequently.

7609. Be so good as to describe a little more accurately in what way is that straw used; do they lie down upon the straw as a horse would lie upon it?—They do, in some instances.

7610. Without any covering for the straw?—Their own clothes is the covering; but the person who was with me will give a better description than I can, for when the beds were looked at he looked at them more than I did, for I generally took down the account that they gave.

7611. Mr. *Fielden.*] The person who was with you has been a blanket-maker, and would know better the description of bedding, would he not?—He would.

7612. Mr. *Baines.*] In what we call the north of England there is a great deal of this kind of distress there, is there not?—I never saw so much as I saw in Bedfordshire.

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7613. Was there not a return presented to the House of Commons by the member for Oldham, in which he stated that there were a very large number of families whose income did not exceed 1½*d.* or 2½ *d.* an individual per day; therefore, in the north of England, as well as in the south, is there not a great deal of this distress?—There is.

7614. Was there not a great deal of that distress prevailing under the old law as well as under the new, and is there not among the labouring classes often a great deal of distress prevailing?—That return refers to the hand-loom weavers, and every body knows that they are very distressed.

7615. They are a very numerous body in the county of Lancashire?—They are; but that return stated them, if I recollect rightly, at 2½ *d.* per head per day.

7616. Then there is a great deal of that distress in every part of the country, not confined to Bedfordshire?—Amongst the hand-loom weavers there is a good deal; but I am not aware that it exists in the other parts to such an extent as it does amongst them.

7617. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know where this widow woman, Susan Deacon, was required to go to the factories?—To Derby.

7618. Had she been required to go to Manchester or to Bolton, as many families have gone, might not she have found plenty among the hand-loom weavers there, as distressed as herself?—Yes.

7619. Who would have been willing to have gone into the factories, if they could have obtained factory employment?—Plenty.

7620. Do not you think it would have been an improper interference to send this poor woman to the manufacturing districts, where poverty exists to the same extent, or nearly so, as in Bedfordshire?—I think it a very unwise course to remove them to the manufacturing districts.

7621. Does not it justify them, in your opinion, in drawing the conclusion that the migration which has been going on from the rural districts to the manufacturing districts is ill-judged, and calculated to inflict great oppression upon the poor who are removed?—I am sure that it is calculated to produce great suffering upon those who are removed.

7622. Did you take pains to ascertain the condition of families who had been removed from Norfolk and Suffolk to the north?—I did.

7623. On a subsequent day, will you be prepared to state the condition in which you found those migrant families?—I will.

7624. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you know that any of those were employed as hand-loom weavers, who went from Norfolk and Suffolk?—I am not aware that any have become hand-loom weavers.

7625. And the distress to which you alluded, has been among the hand-loom weavers?—Yes.

7626. Mr. *Fielden.*] Has not there been great distress in Bolton and Preston, and in other manufacturing towns, in consequence of the want of employment, from mills working a short time?—Yes; many have not worked at all.

7627. And have not the migrants suffered great distress from the want of work?—Yes.

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APPENDIX.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *Ampthill*, in the County of *Bedford*, from the Year 1830 to 1838.

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	PARENT'S NAME. Christian.	PARENT'S NAME. Surname.	Abode.	Quality.	By whom Ceremony performed.
1830: May - 2 No. 734.	Charles, son of	Sarah - reputed father John Whiteman.	Farr - -	Warden -	spinster -	Edm[d] G. Bayley, curate.
May - 16 No. 737.	John, son of	Mary -	Briggs -	Ampthill -	spinster -	Edm[d] G. Bayley.
July - 4 No. 741.	Joseph, son of	Mary -	Cooper -	Ampthill -	spinster -	Edm[d] G. Bayley.
Sept. - 5 No. 748.	John Ramsey, son of	Thyrsa - reputed father John Ramsey.	Battison -	Ampthill -	spinster -	Edm[d] G. Bayley.
1831: April - 10 No. 772.	James, son of	Mary -	Trovell -	Ampthill -	- -	Edm[d] G. Bayley.
Aug. - 28 No. 799.	Arthur, son of	Mary - reputed father John Line,	Stonbridge -	Ampthill -	- -	Edm[d] G. Bayley.
Dec. - 11 No. 808.	Fanny, daughter of	Elizabeth reputed father John Roberts.	Dyer -	Ampthill -	- -	Edm[d] G. Bayley.
1832: March 11 No. 818.	Mary, daughter of	Mary -	Manton -	Ampthill -	- -	Edm[d] G. Bayley.
Oct. - 14 No. 848.	John, son of	Susannah - reputed father John Roberts.	Odell -	Ampthill -	- -	Edm[d] G. Bayley.
1833: March 31 No. 863.	Henry, bastard son of	Elizabeth -	Sharp -	Ampthill -	- -	Edm[d] G. Bayley.
1834: Jan. - 5 No. 907.	Eliza, bastard daughter of	Susannah -	Odell -	Ampthill -	widow -	Edm[d] G. Bayley.
July - 29 No. 920.	William, son of	Ann -	Manton -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. R. Butcher, offic[g] minister.
Aug. - 17 No. 922.	Sarah, daughter of	Eliza -	Lewis -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. R. Butcher.
1835: March 24 No. 960.	Reuben, son of	Sarah -	Philips -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell, curate.
May - 3 No. 964.	Louisa Bellamore, daughter of	Mary -	Billington -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
June - 7 No. 968.	Ann Green, daughter of	Sarah -	Pain -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
June - 14 No. 975.	Susannah, daughter of	Elizabeth -	Harding -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
June - 28 No. 980.	Samuel James, son of	Ann -	Upton -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.

(*continued.*)

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *Ampthill*—continued.

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	PARENT'S NAME. Christian.	PARENT'S NAME. Surname.	Abode.	Quality.	By whom Ceremony performed.
1836: Jan. - 31 No. 1008.	Henry Money, son of	Kesiah -	Money -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
March 6 No. 1012.	Mary Ann, daughter of	Mary -	Gore - -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
April - 3 No. 1014.	Mary, daughter of	Mary -	Baldock -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
April - 10 No. 1015.	Elizabeth, daughter of	Ann -	Hill - -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
May - 1 No. 1020.	Francis John, bastard son of	Ann -	Deverill -	Ampthill -	widow -	E. A. Powell.
June - 17 No. 1028.	Frederick Ramsey, son of	Thyrsa -	Battison -	Ampthill -	now wife of John Greenwood Ramsey, upholsterer.	E. A. Powell.
June - 19 No. 1029.	Mary Ann Ramsey, daughter of	Thyrsa -	Battison -	Ampthill -	ditto -	E. A. Powell.
June - 26 No. 1033.	John, son of	Elizabeth -	Manton -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
Nov. - 28 No. 1056.	James Redman Smith, son of	Mary Anne -	Smith -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
1837: March 12 No. 1066.	Sarah, daughter of	Elizabeth -	Roberts -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
July - 9 No. 1080.	George, son of	Mary -	Jane - -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
July - 16 No. 1083.	Ephraim, son of	Harriet -	Marshall -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
1838: Jan. - 21 No. 1104.	Joseph, son of	Elizabeth -	Bottoms -	Ampthill -	- - single woman.	E. A. Powell.
Feb. - 11 No. 1108.	Mary Anne, daughter of	Lucy -	Page - -	Ampthill -	spinster -	E. A. Powell.
March 26 No. 1119.	John, son of	Ann -	Deverill -	Ampthill -	widow -	E. A. Powell.

I hereby certify that the above is a correct List of all the Baptismal Entries of illegitimate Children in the Register of Baptisms for the parish of Ampthill, in the county of Bedford, from the beginning of the year 1830 to the present time.

E. A. Powell,
Curate of Ampthill.

7 April 1838.

NUMBER in each separate Year.

1830 - - - - -	4	1835 - - - - -	5
1831 - - - - -	3	1836 - - - - -	9
1832 - - - - -	2	1837 - - - - -	3
1833 - - - - -	1	1838 - - - - -	3
1834 - - - - -	3	TOTAL - - -	33

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
4 *April* 1838.

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TWENTY-FIFTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
6 *April* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, That power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

6 *April* 1838.

WITNESS.

Mr. *James Turner.*

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Veneris, 6° die Aprilis, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.	Mr. Scrope.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Wakley.
Sir T. Fremantle.	Mr. Walker.
Mr. Freshfield.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *James Turner*, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *James Turner.*

6 April 1838.

7628. Mr. *Fielden.*] THE next case stated in your letter, I find to be "Sarah Jellis," you state "is aunt to four orphan children, whom she has brought up; when she took these children the oldest was 13, the youngest was a few days old, the mother having died of child-birth; she had with these children 9*s.* per week, up to the building of the 'great house;' after which the board of guardians took off 1*s.* and then took off 2*s.* more; very soon after they took the other 2*s.*, and this reduced the allowance to 4*s.*; they afterwards took all off; this was all done in less than 12 months, and she was ordered to the board?"—This is the statement which she made to me; and, upon examining the returns which have been made, I find that her pay has been reduced in the manner which I have stated; and, judging from the condition of the oldest of those children, it is not very likely that he will ever be able to get his living.

7629. *Chairman.*] What is the matter with him?—He has fits; in consequence of this pay being stopped in this way, she applied to a brother to take one of them; she could not afford to keep them; another went last Christmas to see her grandmother, and did not come back, so that she is now left with two, and she has 2*s.* a week; she has this one to keep of 15 years of age, and another, a young one, out of 2*s.* a week, and she is in great distress, as are the others that I have named.

7630. Is she a widow?—Yes, but these children are not her own children; they have neither father nor mother; she is aunt to the children.

7631. Does she receive pay on account of those children, she being aunt to the children?—She receives 2*s.* a week on account of her own condition, I suppose.

7632. What is her age?—Forty-five; something like that.

7633. Is she an able-bodied woman?—She does not look to be very able-bodied.

7634. Does she seem to be infirm?—No, I am not aware that she is infirm herself.

7635. Is there any thing about her which should prevent her from going about the usual avocations and pursuits of a woman of her age?—No, I am not aware that there is.

7636. To what parish does she belong?—She lives in Flitwick.

7637. Do you know whether she pays any rent?—I do not; I should almost think not, from the appearance of the hut in which she lives; I cannot call it a house, for it is very nearly down; I think it stands on the waste, but I am not certain.

7638. Is it your impression that it belongs to herself?—My impression is that it belongs to the parish.

7639. And that she is allowed to live in it without paying rent?—Yes.

7640. Did this woman state to you that she made application to the board?—She states that she had made application, and they took the whole money off in the manner I have described, first 1*s.* and then 2*s.*, and subsequently they took

Mr. *James Turner.*

6 April 1838.

took it all; on referring to the books, I find the place where she said it was 4*s.*, but no deficiency by taking off, so that it appears that they sent for her to the board, and subsequently allowed her 2*s.*, and that is what she now receives.

7641. What did she receive before the union was formed?—Nine shillings, and then it was brought to 8*s.*

7642. When was that?—Within a very trifle after the formation of the union; I could not be correct as to dates.

7643. From 8*s.* it has been gradually reduced to 2*s.*?—Yes, that is the account.

7644. Mr. *Fielden.*] She had 9*s.* before the union, for herself, and then 7*s.* 6*d.* for two weeks before the formation of the union?—Yes.

7645. And again 9*s.* for 39 weeks?—Yes.

7646. And after the formation of the union 8*s.* for nine weeks, 6*s.* for 26 weeks, 4*s.* for four weeks, 2*s.* four weeks; that finishes the year; 2*s.* a week in 1836 and 1837, and 2*s.* up to Christmas, the end of the return?—Yes.

7647. *Chairman.*] I find one entry in the book on the 3d of March 1836; Sarah Jellis, of Flitwick, is stated to have a girl 15 years of age, a boy 14, a boy 11, and a girl two; she was in the habit of receiving 4*s.* a week at that time; she wants to have that allowance continued; and the decision of the board of guardians is, that she should be allowed 2*s.* a week for the youngest child until the 25th of March 1836; then I observe another entry of the 14th of April 1836, in which the decision of the board is to continue during the quarter the allowance of 2*s.* on account of the youngest child, the youngest orphan; that is the entry; then again there is an entry on the 25th of August 1836, in which it appears that she applies for an allowance for an orphan child, and that the determination of the board of guardians is, that she should be allowed 2*s.* a week from the 24th of June till further orders, that being dated back in order to give her the arrears, the former order having gone only to the 24th of June, and that continues to the present time; from the entry in the book of the board of guardians it appears that Sarah Jellis makes an application for an orphan child?—They are both orphan children; they are brother and sister.

7648. That appears to be the application; and the decision of the board of guardians appears to be, that the allowance should be granted for the orphan child; I am bound therefore to suppose that the impression upon the board of guardians was, that she could support herself, and that the other children could support themselves, or that she could support them; do you know that she has a daughter grown up, who lives with her?—That is the daughter that has left; she does not now live with her.

7649. How long has she left her?—She left at Christmas last.

7650. Up to Christmas last this daughter lived with her?—Yes.

7651. Do you know what that daughter earned?—If she was straw plaiting, she would earn from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* a week; she would not earn more than 2*s.* if she was a straw plaiter, and I presume she was, for the rest of the family are straw plaiters.

7652. Her eldest son appears to be out at service?—I was not aware of that; it is not her own son that I am alluding to.

7653. There appears to be a boy; what age is he?—My entry is 15.

7654. Kept at home plaiting; do you know whether he earns 2*s.* or 3*s.* a a week?—I am quite certain that he cannot earn 1*s.*; if I am any judge of a boy of that description; I state that he is a boy that appears to have fits.

7655. And 2*s.* appears to be allowed for the youngest child, who is four years old; the woman is capable of maintaining herself?—It is on account of the children that I published that statement.

7656. The application, as it appears in the book of the board of guardians, seems to be for the youngest child only, under the notion, if that entry is correct, that the woman and the other children were able to maintain themselves?—Yes; but this boy of 15 is not able to maintain himself; and this is one thing which makes her in the state she is, having him to keep.

7657. What relation is she to that boy?—She is aunt, I believe.

7658. That boy is now 15; she not being by law compellable to maintain that boy, and as a separate application might be made on his account, do you know whether such application was ever made?—I do not, for I do not think the poor people are aware that application may be made for a separate pay; she has made application,

application, and has received 2*s.*; and I know, from the expression she used, she considers it to be on account of the two children.

7659. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you reason to think that the guardians and the relieving officer also must have known the case of this woman well?—They must have known, for they do relieve her with this 2*s.* a week; and there is a description of her attending to make application, that they must have known her condition, I am sure.

7660. Have you reason to think, from the observations you have made upon the spot, from what has been stated to you by this female herself, and from the condition that you found her in, that she has been unkindly treated by the relieving officer or the board of guardians, or both?—She has been unkindly treated by some one, or by both.

7661. The reduction from 9*s.* before the union, to 2*s.*, so soon after the union, is proof to your mind of that fact?—I think a reduction of 9*s.* to 2*s.*, all done in less than a year, is a proof that she was not kindly dealt with.

7662. *Chairman.*] Was the reduction from 9*s.* to 2*s.* done in less than a year?—Yes, that is her statement to me.

7663. Mr. *Chichester.*] You say you think the people are not aware that after a certain age they may get relief on their own account; for instance that that child which you spoke of might have applied?—I do not think people understand that in country places, that at 16 they should make separate applications; but that child is not 16 yet.

7664. At the time was she not aware that she was not obliged to maintain her nephew or niece?—Yes; but the children have nobody else to look to; she does it from a feeling of affection.

7665. Did she apply to the board of guardians; was she personally before the board?—It appears so, from the entries which have been made; she states to me that she had made application, and that they reduced it from time to time in less than 12 months from 9*s.* to 2*s.*, and her condition could not have been improved at the rate of from 9*s.* to 2*s.*

7666. Mr. *Fielden.*] Here is the case of this woman who kindly undertook to take care of these orphan children, and who had her allowance reduced in the manner you have stated; and on asking this woman how they lived, she burst into tears and said, "God only knows, for I cannot tell?"—That was her answer; after I had made the various inquiries into her situation, I then asked her how she contrived to live out of that, and she burst into tears and said, "God only knows; I cannot tell you."

7667. Will you next go to the case of Sarah Cox, another case stated in your letter?—Sarah Cox belongs to Maldon parish; she has been a widow five years, and has six children; the eldest is 22, the youngest five; the two eldest girls have fits; they are straw plaiters; they earn with the whole of the family about 8*s.* a week; there are four of them plaiting, besides the mother, and altogether they earn about 8*s.* a week, including the mother; this widow had, before the new law was passed, 5*s.* a week; her children are girls, with the exception of the oldest; he is a boy.

7668. *Chairman.*] The children were then four years younger?—It would be four years from the time of its being passed, but from the time of its being introduced there it would be three years; they then reduced it to 4*s.*, and afterwards to 3*s.*; and afterwards because they would not go to the factories, they would not give them any thing; they stopped the whole of it.

7669. Mr. *Fielden.*] On looking over the returns of the money she received from the parish, your statement appears to be confirmed; she received 4*s.* 6*d.* for nine weeks preceding the union, but she had for some time before that 5*s.* 3*d.*; after the union she was reduced to 3*s.*, which was continued for 42 weeks and then withdrawn; do you know whether she has had it renewed since or not?—I believe not; her statement is, they told her when she refused to go to the factories they had nothing whatever to do with her, and she has never received any relief since.

7670. Mr. *Chichester.*] The oldest child is 22?—Yes, and he is married.

7671. Is he living in the same house with his mother?—Yes.

7672. What is the age of the next?—I have not an account of the age of the next; the oldest is 22 and the youngest five.

7673. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did you hear any statement on what terms she was offered to go to the factories in Lancashire?—I did not hear any particular

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statement of her, any more than the rest of the widows; but most of the widows that had families of this description, that I met with in the union, had been offered employment in the factories, and if they refused they told them invariably they had nothing to do with them; if all the persons must have gone to the factories that they had offered the factory work to, they would have had to build a great many more factories in Lancashire than there are now, many as there are.

7674. *Chairman.*] Do you mean to say that if all the people to whom they offered work in the factories, confining yourself to the Ampthill Union, had gone there, it would have been necessary to build new factories in Lancashire?—I beg pardon for the statement, but I ought to have qualified it by saying, that if all the other unions in the agricultural districts had offered factory labour at the rate that the Ampthill Union has, we should not have a sufficiency of factories by a great deal.

7675. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have heard many cases where the factories have been offered to those parties?—I have, a great many; I think I speak advisedly when I say that I did not meet with a single case of a widow, having children that were any thing near eligible, not having the factories offered them, and if they refused, "We have nothing to do with you," was the general answer.

7676. *Chairman.*] That was the general answer given in the Ampthill Union?—Yes, I do think so, and my reason for thinking so is the statement by the widows who had children eligible for factory labour.

7677. If those children refused, was there any power in the board or in any body else to send them?—No; but there was the power to compel them by starvation.

7678. Do not you know that the law provides for the relief of the poor, and makes it imperative upon boards of guardians or parish officers to take all care that they do not starve?—When I stated, compel them by starvation, I did not go far, I only refer to the case now lying before me, that this family have suffered great privations and want of bread, and of other,—I do not mean to say comforts, but of the necessaries of life, and they would give them no relief, because they refused to go to the factories.

7679. Would they not have given the parties admission to the workhouse?—Yes, but the people do not like to go.

7680. When you say the people are threatened with starvation, are you disposed to admit that at the same time these people might all of them have been received into the workhouse?—Certainly, but they do not wish to go into the workhouse.

7681. Mr. *Hodges.*] What you mean is this, that if they refuse to go to the factories or into the workhouse, they have no other remedy against starvation?—Either the workhouse or starvation; and they prefer the latter to the former, in many instances.

7682. *Chairman.*] When you say they prefer the latter to the former, have you any instance in the Ampthill Union, besides those which you have adduced, in which parties have died from want of food?—Not died from want of food, but suffering great privations; they often state, "If I can get a bit of bread once a day, I will not go into the workhouse;" I am prepared with instances of that.

7683. Mr. *Fielden.*] Here, according to your statement, was a widow with six children subsisting on an income of 5*s.* a week?—But I would wish to be understood; I think the oldest of those six is married, but lives in the same house, so that it will be the widow and five children that will have to be supported with 8*s.* a week earned by the straw plaiting.

7684. You state that she will have to pay at least 1*s.* 6*d.* for firing?—She states that she will have 1*s.* 6*d.* for firing and 1*s.* for rent.

7685. Did you take notice of what furniture this widow had left in her house?—I do not know where I must find it; I could not find any furniture or barely none, they sat plaiting in a little place, it might be about eight feet square.

7686. Did you look at their bedding at all?—I did not.

7687. You state that this is a very distressed family, that is your impression still?—Yes it is very much distressed.

7688. *Chairman.*] Sarah Cox is a widow woman belonging to the parish of Maldon, and residing in Maldon; she is stated to be 46 years old, now 48?—I have her here 45, it will be somewhere thereabouts.

7689. She

7689. She appears to have a girl aged 20; is that daughter married?—No.

7690. That daughter is not dependent upon the mother for assistance; then she has a boy aged 15 on the 7th of April 1836; that boy is now beyond the age at which the mother is responsible for its maintenance; then there are three children remaining; therefore the mother is responsible now for the maintenance only of three children, of which the eldest was 13 on the 7th of April 1836, and is therefore now 15; then she has a boy and a girl that are older; she therefore is responsible for the maintenance of only three children?—According to the law, she is responsible for only three, but the oldest girl and the third child, that is the two oldest girls, are both subject to fits, and not capable of working much.

7691. Is the eldest girl, who was 20 on the 7th of April 1836, subject to fits?—She is, so her mother states, and from her appearance I should say she is.

7692. Is she rendered by those fits incapable of earning the usual earnings of of straw plaiting?—I do not think she would be capable of doing so much staw plaiting as one that was stout and hale and healthy.

7693. The boy who was 15 on the 7th of April 1836, does he live with her?—He had nothing to do, but was plaiting at the time I saw him.

7694. What does he earn at plaiting?—Four are reckoned at 2*s.* each, that would make the 8*s.*, which I reckoned they all earned by plaiting.

7695. There is a boy eight years old; does he not earn any thing?—He is included in the four.

7696. What does the mother earn?—This 8*s.* is included as what the mother and the four children earn; the boy who is eight years of age can earn very little when they have paid for the straws, but that with the mother makes them equal to four, reckoning the boy and the mother as one; between them they will make four, and they earn 2*s.* each.

7697. On the 7th of April 1836, she appears to have made an application to the board to be reinstated in her allowance, her allowance being 3*s.* a week; she was then told that she might have employment in the manufacturing districts; did she state what the nature of the employment was that was offered to her, what the terms were?—She did not.

7698. Do you know whether she was told generally, that she might have employment in the manufacturing districts, or whether a specific employment was proposed to her, with certain wages for herself and children for a certain specified time?—I am not sure whether it was a general or specific statement.

7699. Do you know whether she pays any rent?—A shilling a week, she states.

7700. She has another child, not enumerated either here or in your letter, who is married; is that a boy or a girl?—A boy.

7701. What age is he?—Two or three and twenty; and they live in the same house with the mother.

7702. Has he any family?—A wife and one child, I think.

7703. Do you know what his earnings are?—I do not; but he was out of work at the time that I wrote that letter.

7704. What is the date of that letter?—Twenty-sixth or 27th of January this year.

7705. Do you know whether that son pays the rent for his mother's cottage?—They join in the rent and the firing, I believe.

7706. Therefore the whole expense of the rent, 1 *s.* a week, does not fall upon the mother?—No.

7707. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know what the name of the eldest son of Sarah Cox is?—I do not; I believe it is her daughter that is married; I find James Bryant, 26, has a wife and three children; I find it is her son-in-law; this daughter had been in the workhouse in consequence of the husband being out of work, and I find his name is Bryant, so that it would be her daughter.

7708. Do you think that this widow woman could have kept her family together at all but for the assistance she received from her eldest children?—Those two oldest, that plait, I do not suppose that she could have lived without them; though their earnings are very small, it must contribute in some degree to her support.

7709. Then those whom the law does not compel her to maintain were assisting her and maintaining both the mother and themselves?—Certainly they were, because their whole earnings are 8*s.*

 7710. Did

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7710. Did you see the whole of this family?—With the exception of one who has gone out.

7711. From the knowledge you have of factory employment, and of the children employed in factories, do you think this family a fit or an unfit one for the factories?—A very unfit family for a factory, for no child with fits ought to be amongst machinery; it is quite work enough for children to take care of themselves, without being subject to fits.

7712. Do you think the refusal of relief to her, because she would not go to the factories, was very unkind treatment towards her and her family?—I do, because her family was not a proper family for a factory at all.

7713. The next case I wish to call your attention to, is Charlotte Palmer; she resides in Clophill; you describe her as a widow, 55 years of age?—This widow has five children, the oldest is 16 and the youngest 10; this widow had been in very respectable circumstances in the parish in which she now resides, but owing to unforeseen circumstances, and some law affairs, she got reduced, till she became chargeable to the parish; they had relieved her with 5*s.* a week, and it was subsequently reduced to 1*s.* a week; and then that was taken off, they telling her that she might go to the factories; and if she did not go to the factories they would not have any thing more to do with her; she was to have gone into the neighbourhood of Leeds.

7714. Was this said to her at the board?—That is my information.

7715. The relief she had been having was withdrawn?—It was withdrawn at the time when she refused to go to the factories.

7716. Have you compared the account of the relief she said she had with the returns which had been made to this Committee?—I have; and I find it very nearly correct, according to the statement she made, as nearly as could be expected, she speaking from memory.

7717. Were those children of hers girls or boys?—They are both; either three or four of them are boys; I am not sure whether it is three or four, but three I believe are boys; and at the time I published that letter, the two oldest boys were out of work, and had nothing to do.

7718. Did you hear that any attempt was made to contract for this family for the employment of her and her family in any place in the north?—I have no account that the contract was entered into, whether it was a general offer that she might go, or a specific one, I am not aware.

7719. Have you heard or seen contracts which have been made for the transference of labourers' families from the rural districts to the manufacturing districts?—Frequently; I have one here which I call a bill of parcels; I have frequently seen, in families that have been removed from the rural districts to the north, bills of parcels that have been made out, and I will read one here; not a copy of one, for it is an original one; this is "Mr. George Stansfield Wells, of Soyland, near Halifax, in the county of York;" this is the consignment of a family over to Mr. Wells,—Edward Markwell Welby, 38 years of age, 8*s.* for the first year, 10*s.* for the second year, and 10*s.* for the third year; Honor, his wife, is to have nothing; she is the mother of the family, her name is down, but there is nothing for her to have.

7720. What do you mean by Honor having nothing, is it that there is no sum affixed to her name?—That is what I mean; Mary is 14 years of age, she is to have 3*s.* the first year, 3*s.* 6*d.* the second year, and 3*s.* 6*d.* the third year.

7721. *Chairman.*] Are those weekly payments?—Yes; James is 12 years of age; he is to have 2*s.* 6*d.* the first year, 3*s.* the second, and 3*s.* the third year; George Chinery, who, it appears, is not one of the family, but going with them, is 18 years of age; he is to have 5*s.* for the first year, 5*s.* 6*d.* for the second year, and 5*s.* 6*d.* for the third year; Caroline Hazell is 14 years of age; she is to have 3*s.* the first year, 3*s.* 6*d.* the second year, and 3*s.* 6*d.* the third year; Robert Hazell is 16 years of age; he is to have 4*s.* the first year, 4*s.* 6*d.* the second year, and 4*s.* 6*d.* the third year; William Ramsay is 14 years of age; he is to have 3*s.* the first year, 3*s.* 6*d.* the second year, and 3*s.* 6*d.* the third year; John is nine years of age, and Charles is one; consequently, they are not eligible for factory labour; the amount is 28*s.* 6*d.* the first year, 33*s.* 6*d.* the second year, and 33*s.* 6*d.* the third year. "No objection to advance 2*l.* on loan; to receive, when in London, to board the family by canal, 2*l.*; to receive, when arrived at Soyland, 3*l.* 10*s.*" This is the manner in which those families have been

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been contracted for and sent; I have frequently seen families that have come in this way; and I am not aware whether Charlotte Palmer had a contract of this description, or whether hers was general information; but this was the contract to which I alluded when I said I had seen contracts for some.

7722. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you find there the name of the place where the family went from, or the name of the party who hands over the family to Mr. Wells?—No, I do not; but in one I have seen it put down, "Consigned from such a parish, by such and such individuals, to such and such masters;" but that does not bear at all the name of the consigner.

7723. Do you know who it is, or have you ever heard who it is, that makes out those bills of parcels, as you call them?—One that I saw bearing the name came from a board of guardians; I saw one that came from Norfolk; "The board of guardians send such a family to such a place;" if it be necessary, I can give the name; but the board of guardians are the parties who send them down.

7724. There is another here that will show the contracting party, will you read that?—This is dated "Rishargles."

7725. To whom is that addressed?—To "Mr. H. Wilson, Relieving Officer, Swan Inn, Rishargles."

7726. Will you read the contents of it?—"Sarah Banks, 46; Mary Ann, aged 19, is to have 6*s.* a week for three years; Ann, 16; she is to have 1*s.* 6*d.*; and six meals; William is 15, and is to have 4*s.*, 4*s.* 6*d.* and 5*s.*; Joseph is 14, and is have 3*s.*, 3*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.*; Emmanuel is ten, Rebecca is nine, and George is seven; these three are too young to work, but when they are a little older I will give them wages in proportion to the above; the cottage is 2*s.* a week, at 2*s.* 3*d.* or 2*s.* 6*d.*; signed G. H. Wells, Rippenden Mill, near Halifax, Yorkshire."

7727. Mr. Wells, it appears, made the engagement to take that family; the letter in which he engaged to do so is addressed to the relieving officer, as you have described.—It is.

7728. Do you notice in that letter that there is one child of ten years of age and another of nine years of age, whom Mr. Wells does not agree to take into employment?—Yes, I do.

7729. Do you know that, by law, children can be employed in factories at nine years of age?—Yes.

7730. Do you not think if there had been a scarcity of hands in the district in which Mr. Wells resided, that he would employ those hands?—I am satisfied that there was no scarcity of hands when those various families were sent down into the north.

7731. From your knowledge of that kind in factories, do you believe that those wages are below the wages generally paid?—The wages contracted for are about two-thirds what they give the ordinary hands of that description.

7732. Do not you think that the obtaining children from rural districts, for the purpose of being employed in the factories at those reduced wages, has an immediate effect upon those who have been employed there previously?—Certainly it has.

7733. In the case of this Charlotte Palmer, who had five children, did you take notice of her children, whether they appeared to you to be fit or not for factory employment?—They were boys, and they might have been suitable for factory employment, from their ages; they are between 16 and 10.

7734. Is it your opinion that if those children had gone to the factory at Leeds, as here described, they would have been employed at wages far below what was competent for their maintenance?—A great deal lower than was competent; I never saw any of the labourers that have gone from the rural districts, that have more wages than I have stated; that is about two-thirds of what the ordinary hands had in the neighbourhood where they went.

7735. Have you made many inquires into the cases of migrants who have gone to factories in the north?—I have.

7736. And you have a great many cases which you can bring forward of great distress and suffering on the part of those migrants, owing to their having left the rural districts?—I can, if the Committee wish it, lay such cases before them.

7737. *Chairman.*] Charlotte Palmer is about 53 years old, is she not?—Fifty-five, my account states.

7738. I observe the entry of Charlotte Palmer in the pauper application-book; on the 27th of August 1835, she applies to have her allowance continued, it having

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having been recently taken off, and the entry is, " the son being almost insolvent, and not being able to contribute to the support of the mother, the allowance was restored;" therefore 3*s.* a week she appears to have received from the board of guardians on the 27th of August 1835; did she state that to you?—No; she states that she had, before the new law was passed, 5*s.* a week, but it was reduced at various times to 1*s.*; before the union she had 5*s.* a week for 20 weeks, 4*s.* 35 weeks; then after the union she had 3*s.* for 38 weeks, then reduced to 1*s.* for two weeks; next year, 1*s.* 39 weeks, then discontinued; that appears upon the return, so that that 1*s.* that she has there for 39 weeks will be the 1*s.* they allowed her upon that application, probably.

7739. *Chairman.*] Then she applies again on the 21st of April 1836; she is stated to be 56 years old; her children are stated to be a boy of 20 years of age; was that boy living with her?—By the statement, her oldest is 16.

7740. She is stated on the 21st of April 1836, to have come before the board of guardians to have made an application for increase of allowance, and the entry is that she had a boy of 20; did she state to you that she had a boy 20 years old?—She did not; this boy will not be living with her, and I shall be right still; I say five children, so that I took those that lived with the mother.

7741. That boy is not living with her?—It appears so from this account.

7742. The next child stated there, is a girl of 18 in 1836, now 20 years of age; is that girl living with her?—I believe she is, but she states her here to be 16.

7743. Do you know whether that girl is living with her?—I believe there is a girl living with her at home, that plaits; I do not know her exact age.

7744. Did she state what the earnings of that girl were?—She states that they all earn about 7*s.* 6*d.* a week, that is putting them all together.

7745. Did she state what the girl who is 20 years of age earned?—She did not, not individually.

7746. Then there is a boy of 18; did she state what he earned?—He was out of work; he was earning nothing at the time to which I allude, I think his name is Charles.

7747. Did she state that boy was a butcher?—She did not; she stated he was out of work, and he was out of work.

7748. She did not state her boy was a butcher?—No.

7749. Then there was another boy of 16, whom probably you saw?—I saw two boys.

7750. You saw a boy of 16?—I did.

7751. Was that boy living with her?—Yes, but he was out of work, doing nothing.

7752. Then there was another boy of 12?—He was plaiting.

7753. There was another boy of 10?—He was plaiting.

7754. She has a girl of 20, a boy of 16, a boy of 12, and a boy of 10, making four children, old enough to earn money at plaiting?—Yes; the two youngest earn very little money.

7755. Will a boy of 12 earn very little money?—The one of 10 will not earn much; the boy of 12 might earn something.

7756. The girl of 20, the boy of 16, and the boy of 12; those are three of an age old enough to earn money at plaiting?—Yes.

7757. They ought to earn 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* a week?—One shilling and sixpence.

7758. Then the boy at 10 would earn something?—A shilling a week.

7759. What do you reckon the woman herself?—She is no plaiter.

7760. Is not she a needle-woman; does she not take in needle-work?—If she can get any to do; she states that she can get none to do.

7761. Is not she employed as a good needle-woman?—When she can get it; she does needle-work sometimes, when she can get it to do; I was told so when I made inquiries into her condition.

7762. Do you know that this woman has a brother who has considerable property, and who is in a situation to assist her?—I have been so informed.

7763. Does he not help her at all?—I believe not.

7764. She has a sister living in independent circumstances; does she derive no assistance from those two relations living in good circumstances?—I do not know

7765. You

7765. You say this is one of the instances of a family who have been refused relief, except they would go to a manufacturing district?—Yes.

7766. Are you aware that this woman, on the 21st of April 1836, on making an application for an increase of allowance, is told that her allowance should be continued, but that if she wanted an increase she could not have it; and if she felt herself unable to maintain her family without an increase, she might then come into the workhouse; did she tell you that?—Yes, I believe she did.

7767. Did she also state that her allowance would be continued whether she went into the workhouse or not, but what the board of guardians objected to was an increased allowance?—I am not aware of that.

7768. Now I will only ask you one question with regard to those contracts about which a good deal has been said with reference to the employment of labourers' families in the manufacturing districts; have you any facts with regard to the Union of Ampthill connecting those contracts, such as you have described as bills of parcels,—have you any facts tending to connect the existence of any such contracts with the board of guardians at Ampthill, or any authority connected with the administration of relief in the Union of Ampthill?—I have not seen one of those written contracts from the Union of Ampthill, but that many families have gone from the Union of Ampthill, that I know; whether they have gone with contracts of this description or not I have no evidence.

7769. Mr. *Baines.*] I wish to know whether the practice of employing the children of the rural districts in the manufacturing districts had not prevailed some time before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act?—I am not aware that there was an agency established.

7770. I ask you about the fact?—I am not aware, and, if I am to believe the Commissioners' reports, they say that never but one family went from the south beyond Derby before the passing of the new law.

7771. Then you do not know that there used to be sent from the workhouses in the south to manufacturing establishments in the north, as many as 20, 30, 40, 50, and to the amount of 100 children, in draughts, without any person to look after them, or any person at all to watch over either their interests or their morals?—I am not aware that they were sent in that way; I do know that they were sent from the London workhouses, 20 years ago, many apprentices, at that time; but within the last 20 years, up to the passing of the new law, I am not aware that there were any removals, or very few.

7772. Mr. *Fielden.*] But when those apprenticeships were created, were not the overseers or churchwardens, or those who had the management of the affairs of the parish, the persons who contracted with the parties receiving them in the manufacturing districts?—Certainly, the parish authorities did.

7773. And have you never heard of overseers who have apprenticed children to the factory masters, having come and found fault with those factory masters for the unkind treatment of those apprentices?—Certainly.

7774. Mr. *Baines.*] You say you have heard of them having come and found fault with the masters for their ill treatment; at what time was that, the year, or about what year?—It will be more than 20 years ago.

7775. You have stated that several aged persons have had their parish allowances reduced since the introduction of the new Poor Law into Ampthill Union; do you know whether there have been any cases in that union where aged persons have had their allowances advanced?—Yes.

7776. Do you know what proportion the number of those who have had their allowances advanced bears to the number of those who have had them reduced?—I have no data to go on; but if I must judge from my memory, and what I met with, and what I could select if I were to look over the whole papers, I should say twenty to one have been reduced to one being advanced.

7777. Twenty to one you think have been reduced to one advanced?—Yes; but I have not the exact number; that is my impression.

7778. Then, if on looking at the books and finding that your impression upon that head is very erroneous, would not an inference in your mind arise, as to the effect of this Poor Law, very different from that which you at present entertain?—If it was to be the case, so it would; but it is not the case.

7779. Mr. *Hodges.*] Did your answer imply you took it from the books, or that you confined yourself merely to the inquiries you have made from individuals?—From both; we have the returns; I have referred to those, and I think I am not very wrong.

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7780. Mr. *Baines.*] You have stated some instances of aged persons having their allowance reduced; do you know whether any infirm persons have had their allowance reduced?—I do; they have.

7781. In the letters that you have written on this subject, you have stated that fact?—At the time those letters were written, I had not met with instances where they had been advanced.

7782. But afterwards you did meet with them?—Yes, afterwards I met with a few instances where the pay had been raised, in one instance from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.*, and in two or three instances from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*

7783. And did you, after you met with this information, make any public statement of the fact, in the same way as you had of the instances you had met with of a contrary kind?—I did not.

7784. You have stated that several widows with children have had their allowance reduced since the establishment of the new Poor Law in the Ampthill Union?—Yes.

7785. Do you know whether there have been any widows with children who have had their allowance increased?—I am not aware of any, to the best of my recollection, at present; I do not mean by that to say that there is not one.

7786. Did you inquire for such cases at the same time you were inquiring for cases of reduction?—I did; I did not seek out for cases, either better or worse, but took them just as they came; if I found that they had had their pay advanced, I always took an account of that, as well as when it had been reduced.

7787. Then if it should turn out that there has been an increase in the pay of aged persons and infirm persons and widows, in the proportion of at least four to one, in this union, of which you have been speaking, that would very much unsettle your impression as to the hardship of the new Poor Law and its operation in that union?—If it should prove that; but it cannot, according to the accounts; I have examined the accounts, and I find a reduction in very many instances; and I cannot think that there can be an increase at all, neither to the amount of four to one, nor that there is any increase at all; I judge both from having seen the parties themselves and the returns which have been moved for by this Committee.

7788. Do you think that there is a parish in the kingdom, with a population amounting to from 14,000 to 15,000 persons, where, if equal diligence had been used for the discovery of persons in distress, you would not have found a number equal to those you have found in the Ampthill Union, and that under the operation of the old Poor Law?—I cannot answer that question; I do not know what might have occurred in other places.

7789. You have made a good deal of inquiry relating to the situation of the labouring classes, I believe, before you commenced this inquiry?—I have paid some little attention to the condition of the labouring classes.

7790. And what is your opinion as to the number of persons in those parishes where you have made those investigations, and as to their condition, compared with those that you have inquired into in the Ampthill Union?—I never made any inquiries in any number of parishes that I found as much distress and as great privations in, in any part of the kingdom, as I have done in Bedfordshire.

7791. Did you ever inquire into the condition of the labouring classes in those parts of the country where the hand-loom weavers are principally employed?—I have not, in that part of the country where the hand-loom weavers are the worst off, that is, I am speaking now of Lancashire, to the north part of Lancashire; with that part I am not so well acquainted as with the other parts; that part of Lancashire with which I am acquainted does not suffer as much privation and as much distress as they do in Bedfordshire.

7792. Then you have not had an opportunity of comparing the state of Bedfordshire with those in the manufacturing districts, where the hand-loom weavers are principally employed on the least profitable work?—I have not.

7793. And therefore you cannot institute a comparison as to the condition of the one, the Bedfordshire population, under the new Poor Law Act, and the population of Colne, and Barnley, and other parts of the country where the hand-loom weavers principally are employed in the lower branches of the cotton trade, so as to contrast the one with the other?—My information does not go to the villages in the neighbourhood of the towns to which you allude; I am acquainted with the towns, but not with the villages; there is more distress in the villages

villages than in the towns; as far as I am acquainted with the hand-loom weaving districts of Lancashire, it is where they have better work, Bolton and that part of Lancashire; there is not near so much distress in that part as there is in Bedfordshire.

7794. Mr. *Walker.*] Is not Bolton one of those towns which is inhabited by a very large body of hand-loom weavers?—It is.

7795. Do you know the state of the population at Bolton, from your own inquiries?—Not now; three or four years back I did; I do not know the exact condition now.

7796. You did know it three or four years ago; are you able to state whether they are more distressed or equally distressed with the poor you have visited in the Ampthill Union?—I should think not; I should think the poor in the union in Bedfordshire, where I have been are worse off than the hand-loom weavers in Bolton where I was familiar with them; I would not like to speak to the present time.

7797. Mr. *Fielden.*] The poor people whom you visited, of whose state you have been giving evidence, did they state to you, among other things, the amount of the allowance they had received from the parish?—They did.

7798. You have since had access to the returns of relief given from the year 1834 to the year 1836?—Yes.

7799. Have you compared the returns you have had access to with the statement given by the poor people whose cases you have been describing?—Yes.

7800. And have you generally found them to be correct?—Much more so than I anticipated.

7801. Have you also looked through the returns to such a considerable extent as to justify you in your opinion in arriving at the conclusion that there have not been one in twenty who have had the relief advanced?—That has been my impression; and what I have found in the returns, and the statement made to me, and all other statements (I have very good reason to believe they told true), and those two comparisons together led me to come to the conclusion which I did.

7802. Does not the published account of the reduction of the rates in the Union of Ampthill to the amount of 60 per cent., also prove to your mind that there must have been a great reduction in the relief to the poor somewhere?—There must have been, to a great extent; I will just state, as to those cases which I published; I would just observe that I took the testimony of individuals themselves, and other parties who knew them before I published, and I believe them to be correct; but this Committee may at any time see the parties themselves of whom I speak, who will bear testimony themselves to the truth of what I have stated.

7803. With regard to the knowledge you have had of the hand-loom weavers, Bolton particularly you spoke of, have you not found the distress which you witnessed in Bedfordshire equal to the distress which you have witnessed in Bolton among the hand-loom weavers?—My impression is that it is considerably greater.

7804. Have you a tabular statement of 48 different families whose circumstances you wish to describe to this Committee by that statement?—I have.

7805. These families reside in the parish of Westoning, in the Ampthill Union?—Yes.

7806. Have you taken great pains to ascertain the amount of income they were receiving, both from work and allowance from the parish, the year previous to the union being formed, that is the year 1834?—I have; I stated on a former occasion, respecting the table of three labourers I put in, I had a table in the course of preparation of more labourers. These are not the whole of the labourers in the parish; there are some as to which I could not arrive at the proper data; I have been extremely careful only to put in those which I could safely trust myself with that they were correct; and as far as I have the means of judging, they are correct. If, on a subsequent inquiry, other parties should find they are not correct, I shall be very glad to be corrected in this statement. As far as I have the means of obtaining information, both from the returns that have been ordered, and the statements of the people themselves, I believe them to be correct.

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7807. It is your wish, I understand, then, that this table should be submitted to the Committee, in order that inquiry might be made as to the truth of the whole of this statement with regard to these different labourers?—I have a desire that this should be laid before the Committee.

7808. Will you state the means that you took to get at the earnings of these families in the year 1834?—There was a little difficulty in knowing what wages they had; and the way I judged of the length of time they were employed was, that I applied to the returns which have been moved for by this Committee; and every week that I did not find them on the returns I gave them credit for being in work, so that I did not allow them a single broken day if they were not on the returns; and I put them all as working at the wages they had when in work.

7809. Did you ask every one of these men how they were employed in 1834, what number of weeks, and the occupations in which they were engaged, and what number of weeks on the parish?—I did; I asked them that; but in order to be the more correct as to the number of weeks they were on the parish in 1834, I applied to the returns, and took the account from the returns which I found.

7810. Did you give them credit in this return for the number of weeks' employment at the wages which they stated they were earning, exclusive of the weeks they were on the parish?—I did.

7811. And that is the way in which you arrived at the number of weeks they had employment, and the occupation in which they were engaged?—Yes, in 1834.

7812. Mr. *Hodges.*] Was that before or after the new law?—Before.

7813. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have taken the whole of the year 1834, and you have also taken the whole of the year 1837, to show the condition in which these labourers were?—I have.

7814. And have you got at the amount of earnings, and the wages, for the year 1837?—In that instance I have had to trust to the men as far as possible; in 1837 I had no data to go on; I could not apply to the parish books in 1837 in the manner I could in 1834; and I was obliged to trust in that instance to their memory; but, in order to be correct, after I had made a rough draft of the table, I went down again, took the table with me, saw the labourers themselves, and read it over to them, and asked if it was correct, according to the best of their judgment.

7815. And where you found any thing incorrect in the table you took down with you, you corrected it according to the statement of these men?—I did.

7816. Do you find that these labourers, with the exception of four out of the 48, have, in the year 1837, been entirely thrown upon their own resources?—I do; I find four receiving parochial relief in 1837.

7817. So that 44 of these labourers have had no relief whatever from the parish during the year 1837?—According to my account; according to the statement they have made to me.

7818. And having obtained the number of weeks they have been employed, and the wages they received, and the additional sums they received in the harvest months, you have been enabled to make out a statement satisfactory to yourself, provided they have told you true, as to what was the income of these different families for the year 1837?—I have.

7819. Will you state the number who received relief from the parish in 1834?—Forty-three.

7820. Mr. *Baines.*] In the year 1834 there were 43 out of that number on the parish rates, in the year 1837 there were only four?—Yes, that is the statement.

7821. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you made inquiry as to the earnings of the families of these labourers?—I have.

7822. As well as the earnings of the labourers themselves?—Yes.

7823. And have you put, in different columns, in 1834 and 1837, the whole of the earnings of the families?—I have.

7824. And have you also made inquiry as to what would be the cost of fuel, and the charge they would have to pay for rent, for those two years?—I did; and I found that the cost of fuel, taking winter and summer together, would be, at the very least calculation, 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a week; in winter it would cost 2 *s.* or more;

more; fuel is very dear; but when I stated to them that I had reckoned 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a week for fuel, the statement among the labourers was that they thought I had stated it low enough.

7825. *Chairman.*] That applies equally to 1834 and 1837?—The same to both years.

7826. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you subtracted the outgoings for rent, fuel and lodging, where there are young men, from the gross income they received in wages and parish relief in the year 1834?—Yes.

7827. Have you done the same in 1837?—Yes, in the case of young men, I have deducted from them 1 *s.* a week, for washing and lodging put together, which they all stated was quite as low as it ought to be.

7828. Mr. *Baines.*] That applies equally to 1834 and 1837?—Yes.

7829. *Chairman.*] Are the rents the same?—Yes.

7830. You do not observe any difference in rents?—No, they do not leave their houses often in these country places.

7831. Remaining in their houses, is their any difference in rent?—I do not find any as regards the rent, with the exception of two.

7832. In those cases were the rents lowered or raised?—In one instance, the man used to pay no rent, but subsequently commenced to pay rent; he lived in one of those mud cottages; he did not pay rent in 1834, but last year he paid rent.

7833. Mr. *Fielden.*] By taking the outgoings for rent, fuel and lodging from the gross wages, which you have ascertained in both these years, you have been enabled to arrive at the net income these families had, applicable for food, clothing, and so on?—That is the way in which I have placed the amount which they had coming in.

7834. You have given the net income and the other prior items in separate columns?—All in separate columns.

7835. And have you made a calculation what is the amount the labourers and their families had per head per week during the year 1837 and during the year 1834?—I have, and added that in separate columns also.

7836. Will you read the amount these different families had per head for subsistence in 1834, as shown in your table, and the year 1837 at the same time?—I will begin with 1834; the case is Joseph Lingard, a jobbing labourer, 1 *s.* 7½ *d.*

7837. Now read the items right down the column, without specifying the name?—"One shilling and three-pence half-penny, 1 *s.* 6½ *d.*, 2 *s.* 6¾ *d.*, 10¾ *d.*, 4 *s.* 1½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 3½ *d.*, 2 *s.* 2¾ *d.*, 3 *s.* 8¾ *d.*, 4 *s.* 8 *d.*, 2 *s.* 6¾ *d.*, 1 *s.* 9½ *d.*, 5 *s.*, 1 *s.* 11 *d.* 3 *s.* 0½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 5 *d.*, 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, 1 *s.* 2½ *d.*, 2 *s.* 8¾ *d.*, 2 *s.* 0½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 9½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 4¾ *d.*, 1 *s.* 3¾ *d.*, 1 *s.* 1¾ *d.*, 1 *s.* 8 *d.*, 1 *s.* 3½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 3¾ *d.*, 2 *s.* 7½ *d.*, 2 *s.* 7½ *d.*, 2 *s.* 0¾ *d.*, 1 *s.* 9¼ *d.*, 1 *s.* 0¾ *d.*, 1 *s.* 11¾ *d.*, 1 *s.* 11½ *d.*, 2 *s.* 3¾ *d.*, 1 *s.* 4½ *d.*, 4 *s.* 1 *d.*, 2 *s.* 3¾ *d.*, 1 *s.* 4½ *d.*, 2 *s.* 1¾ *d.*, 2 *s.* 5¾ *d.*, 1 *s.* 4½ *d.*, 2 *s.* 2¾ *d.*, 2 *s.* 2½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 7½ *d.*, 3 *s.* 1 *d.*, 2 *s.* 7¼ *d.*, 2 *s.* 8 *d.*"

7838. Will you begin with Joseph Lingard again, and begin with what he had in 1837?—I will; "1 *s.* 1½ *d.*"

7839. Go through the list in succession, in the same manner, showing the amount they had in 1837?—"One shilling and five-pence, 1 *s.* 3½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 7 *d.*, 1 *s.* 1½ *d.*, 3 *s.*, 7½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 5 *d.*, 2 *s.* 2½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 8 *d.*, 4 *s.* 2 *d.*, 1 *s.* 1½ *d.*, 11 1½ *d.*, 4¾ *d.*, 2 *s.* 4 *d.*, 1 *s.* 10 *d.*, 1 *s.* 5¼ *d.*, 9½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 11¾ *d.*, 2 *s.* 9¾ *d.*, 1 *s.* 1½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 4¾ *d.*, 10½ *d.*, 10 *d.*, 1 *s.* 4½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 5½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 9½ *d.*, 2 *s.* 5 *d.*, 1 *s.* 8¾ *d.*, 1 *s.* 4 *d.*, 1 *s.* 5 *d.*, 1 *s.* 2¾ *d.*, 2 *s.* 6½ *d.*, 2 *s.* 0½ *d.*, 9 *d.*, 5 *d.*, 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, 1 *s.* 11 *d.*, 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, 4 *s.* 8½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 5½ *d.*, 2 *s.* 8 *d.*, 1 *s.* 4 *d.*, 2 *s.* 2¾ *d.*, 4 *s.* 3 *d.*, 4 *s.* 3½ *d.*, 1 *s.* 6½ *d.*, 2 *s.* 2 *d.*

7840. Now the price of wheat in the year 1834, according to the average returns, was 46 *s.* 2 *d.* a quarter, and in 1837 it was 55 *s.* 9 *d.* by the same returns; will you state the number of pints of wheat that Joseph Lingard would be able to buy for each member of his family in 1834?—Joseph Lingard's income in 1834 would have bought every individual of his family 18 pints of wheat per week.

7841. Will you now tell what the others in succession could buy with the income which they derived per week, in pints of wheat, in the same year?—"Fourteen and three-tenths, 17, 28 4/10, 10, 45 8/10, 14 3/10, 24 7/10, 41 4/10, 52, 28 4/10, 20, 55 5/10, 21 3/10, 33 5/10, 16, 28, 13 4/10, 30 8/10, 22 7/10, 20, 15 5/10, 14 6/10, 12 7/10, 18 6/10, 14 3/10, 14 5/10, 29 1/10, 29 1/10, 23, 19 6/10, 22, 21 7/10, 25 7/10, 15 4/10, 45 3/10, 25 7/10, 15 3/10, 23 8/10, 25 7/10, 15 3/10, 24 7/10, 24 5/10, 18, 34 3/10, 29 5/10."

 7842. Will

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7842. Will you read what pints of wheat Joseph Lingard and his family could furnish with the income they had weekly in the year 1837, and the same of the labourers which follow in 1837?—"Ten and four-tenths, 13, 12, $14\frac{6}{10}$, $10\frac{4}{10}$, $27\frac{5}{10}$, $5\frac{7}{10}$, 13, $20\frac{4}{10}$, $15\frac{4}{10}$, $38\frac{4}{10}$, $10\frac{4}{10}$, $8\frac{8}{10}$, $3\frac{6}{10}$, $21\frac{5}{10}$, 17, $13\frac{2}{10}$, $7\frac{3}{10}$, $18\frac{3}{10}$, 26, $10\frac{4}{10}$, $12\frac{9}{10}$, 8, $7\frac{7}{10}$, $12\frac{7}{10}$, $13\frac{4}{10}$, $16\frac{5}{10}$, $22\frac{3}{10}$, $16\frac{4}{10}$, $12\frac{3}{10}$, 13, $11\frac{3}{10}$, $23\frac{6}{10}$, $18\frac{8}{10}$, $6\frac{9}{10}$, $3\frac{8}{10}$, 23, $17\frac{7}{10}$, 14, $43\frac{4}{10}$, $13\frac{4}{10}$, $24\frac{6}{10}$, $12\frac{3}{10}$, $20\frac{6}{10}$, $39\frac{2}{10}$, 39, $14\frac{2}{10}$, 20."

7843. From the table you have given in, there appears to be several families that have an income very low indeed?—No doubt.

7844. From the poverty that you have witnessed in your visits to the Ampthill Union, could you have thought that persons could have existed upon so small a pittance as is described in these tables?—I could not, and I have frequently asked men how they have managed to live at all under those circumstances.

7845. *Chairman.*] What have they told you, in answer to that question?—That they could not tell themselves, but that they did live.

7846. Mr. *Fielden.*] The pittance on which that table shows them to be required to live is such, that you are not surprised to hear of the increase of crime that you have heard of during the time you have been down at Ampthill?—I am not.

7847. *Chairman.*] You say you have heard of the increase of crime since you have been at Ampthill; are you aware that in the county of Bedford, in the course of the last year, as compared with preceding years, there has been a decrease in the number of offenders committed to the gaol of Bedford to the amount of 24 per cent.?—I have heard it; I have not seen an account of it.

7848. If the public returns should be correct, how do you reconcile that with the statement that crime has very much increased?—Because there are a great many petty crimes that are never brought to the quarter sessions, nor to the county gaol.

7849. What notice is taken of those petty crimes?—The way I infer an increase of crime is, from the accounts I have met with from every intelligent person in that part of the country; all concur in stating, those I have conversed with, that there is an increase.

7850. In spite of the public evidence of a diminution?—They do; that is the opinion of all intelligent persons.

7851. Mr. *Baines.*] Are they less subject to be detected in the year 1837 than they were in the year 1834?—I have no means of knowing.

7852. Then, if they are not less subject to be detected in one year than the other, is there any reason to suppose that, comparing the official returns that have been made, those returns will not exhibit the fair contrast of the periods?—This I know, that the farmers, and all other people, are often complaining of having their property stolen, and they all declare that there never was so much stealing of that kind before as there is now.

7853. *Chairman.*] Do you undertake to say that is the general language of the farmers?—I do undertake to say that it is the general language of the farmers; I do not say universally, but to a great extent.

7854. Do you or not believe that the farmers residing in that neighbourhood generally suppose that crime has increased?—My impression is, that they generally do, not universally.

7855. Are you aware, long before this law was introduced, that it was necessary to enter into certain societies for the protection of cattle and other property?—I am.

7856. Are those societies still maintained?—They had a meeting for the purpose of reviving that society while I have been at Ampthill.

7857. Did you see any of the members of that society?—I did not; but I know there was a meeting convened; I saw the placard convening the meeting.

7858. Did you hear any statement that took place at that meeting?—I did not.

7859. Did you hear whether it was stated at that meeting, that being a meeting of farmers interested in the preservation of this description of property, that crime had increased?—I have heard many a one say so.

7860. Was that the language held at that meeting?—I do not know what occurred at that meeting.

7861. In those tables which you have produced with reference to 48 labourers

I observe

I observe one entry in 1837 which does not occur in 1834, among what you call outgoings; I observe in 1837 an entry under the head of outgoings for benefit clubs?—Yes.

7862. I do not observe any entry for out-goings for benefit clubs in 1834, there is no similar or corresponding entry?—I have no entry for benefit clubs in 1834; I am not sure whether those individuals were in in 1834, but I believe not; I know that those were in benefit clubs in 1837; they have established a benefit club in that parish and those are members of it.

7863. So that it would appear in 1834, those parties were not members of benefit clubs?—No.

7864. And in 1837 they were?—Yes.

7865. Do you take these subscriptions to benefit clubs as evidence of their circumstances being altered for the worse?—They are compelled; in consequence of having no relief, and no doctors to go to, in the manner which I have stated on a former occasion, they are driven to be in a benefit club; some few, the more prudent of the working people, have provided themselves with benefit clubs.

7866. Are those subscriptions paid regularly?—Fifteen pence a month.

7867. Are they paid regularly?—They must be, or they are excluded.

7868. Are they able to pay them, out of their earnings?—I have instances where they have paid them, and the family wanting bread at the same time; because if they are once in, and do not keep up their subscriptions, they are excluded all benefit, and rather than be excluded, they will submit to any privation.

7869. Do you not consider a subscription to a benefit club, or clothes club, or societies of that description, rather an evidence that the circumstances of the labourer who subscribes to those societies are not very bad?—I cannot take it that way, for, leaving that table now, there are other instances which I can speak more particularly to on that point; there was one I know who was in a benefit club in the parish of Ampthill, where the man if he had not paid his subscription would have been excluded; at the very time he was out of work he paid the money which should have bought his children bread; and his goods were marked, as we call it; an inventory was taken of his goods, and subsequently seized for rent within a very few weeks.

7870. Mr. *Hodges.*] You have been asked whether labourers subscribing to the clothing clubs is not evidence of their being not very badly off; is it not clear that a labouring man spends some part of his money in clothing?—Some he must.

7871. If that be so, is it not also clear, if he subscribes to a clothing club, he will get more clothes for that sum he so subscribes, than if he took that particular sum, and laid it out at a shop?—I should think he would; but I have no data.

7872. Are you not aware that to those clothing clubs, richer people, clergymen, and many other people, subscribe, and the poor have the benefit of the subscription of their richer neighbours, in addition to their own little contributions?—I have no information as to that in that part of the country.

7873. Are you aware that in that part of the country from which you come there are no such societies?—I have known clothing clubs, but I have not met with any thing of that sort in Bedfordshire, but there may be such, but I do not know they exist.

7874. Then the fact of a labourer subscribing to a club of that sort can be easily accounted for, from the circumstance of his obtaining, for whatever he subscribed, a larger quantity of clothes than if he took that money to a shop?—Certainly.

7875. *Chairman.*] Are these clothing clubs or benefit clubs?—No, they are for provision in case of sickness.

7876. For the head of the family or all the family?—For the head of the family.

7877. It is paid during sickness?—Yes, it is; 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week; that does not give him any advantage of medical attendance to his family, only to himself.

7878. And a certain amount of money?—Yes, 7*s.* a week, and medical attendance to himself.

7879. Have you the terms of those clubs?—I have at home; I know one of the parties subscribing to this club, who now receives 7*s.* a week and medical attendance.

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7880. It must be a great assistance to the labourer?—Yes.

7881. It tends very much to increase the general providence of their habits, if they subscribe to these clubs?—Those who are members are better off in this respect than the rest.

7882. They are men of the most regular character?—Yes, that is what I mean.

7883. Mr. *Baines.*] When was this benefit club established?—I do not exactly know, but within the last three or four years.

7884. *Chairman.*] Has it been established since the introduction of the new Poor Law?—I do not know.

7885. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you state what became of the family to which you alluded, which had an inventory taken of their furniture, after having paid their quarterly subscription to the benefit club?—His name was John Gower, of Ampthill; he had his little furniture, what he had, taken for rent, and I saw the man coming to beg some straw to make a bed for himself; and that was within a very short time after he had paid his contribution to his benefit club.

7886. Did he go to a farmer and beg the straw?—Yes, a small farmer.

7887. After this suffering you have described in your former evidence, in consequence of relief for the poor having been withdrawn from able-bodied labourers, do you not think they will strain every nerve to do something to provide against a time of sickness?—Certainly; and that is the reason why they use every exertion possible to be members of the benefit societies, in consequence of the privations which they endure through having no relief, in the manner I have before stated.

7888. It is no indication, in your mind, of any increase of their means?—Not at all.

7889. In your table you have shown the increase of the means has considerably diminished?—I have.

7890. Notwithstanding this benefit club has been established, and a few having enrolled their names in this club?—I have shown that there is a decrease in their comforts, notwithstanding there is an increase in the benefit club.

7891. In that table that you have put in, I think there is no mention of task-work in it?—There is not.

7892. Will you state to the Committee what you have heard as to the wages paid for task-work?—The price of task-work, as far as I have been able to collect it, is, for thrashing, from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* per load of five bushels; in 1834, four years ago, the price would have been from 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.*

7893. That is the information you have received relative to that district as to task-work?—Yes.

7894. Can you tell the other descriptions of task-work in which labourers are employed in the Union of Ampthill?—Draining is usually done by task, by the score of poles.

7895. Is there any other?—Hedging and ditching is done by the pole.

7896. Will you now state, as far as information enables you, what price is paid for draining now, and what price was paid before the new law came into operation?—The price is various, according to the quality of the work; but that quality of work for which in 1834 they received 5*s.* a score of poles, they now for the same sort receive 4*s.* for a score of poles.

7897. That is for draining?—Yes.

7898. Will you state the price paid for hedging and ditching?—That varies according to the quality and description of the hedge and ditch that is made, but the ordinary sort of hedging and ditching in a common way, that used to be 6*d.* a pole, is now very often done at 4*d.*, and very few give more than 5*d.*

7899. Is there any other description of task-work which you have in your recollection?—Mowing is generally done by the acre.

7900. Has that varied in price?—That used to be 3*s.* an acre; it is now done for 2*s.* 6*d.*; they have about three or four pints of beer an acre in addition, but the money price has dropped from 3*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; the beer is the same as they had before.

7901. From the information you have received, I gather that task-work has declined in price; there has been a reduction of one-sixth on certain descriptions of task-work, and on other descriptions of task-work there has been a reduction of one-fourth?—That is the information I have received.

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7902. Did you receive that information from various persons, and from persons whom you thought likely to know?—Both labourers and farmers.

7903. Did any of the farmers assign any reason to you for this reduction in the price of task-work?—They stated, one farmer especially stated, that he could have his work done at any price he liked; but I did not hear any particular reason assigned why, but that there was a general decline in the price of task-work.

7904. If the labour, either by day-work or task-work, had not been very low, do you think that the labourers could have been induced to leave their own district to go into the north?—Certainly not.

7905. And especially at such sums as you have reason to believe were offered to them?—I should think not, if the remuneration had been in a proper manner.

7906. *Chairman.*] You think the remuneration of the labourers was better under the former law, including their assistance from the parish?—Yes.

7907. Do you know that, under the former state of the law, persons went to the manufacturing districts in considerable numbers?—I am not aware of that.

7908. Mr. *Fielden.*] If, in this statement, where the wages are put down as being weekly, any of those are employed at task-work, what reason did the men assign for the wages being put down by the week?—They state how much they can earn by the week; they state, if they are thrashing for instance, that they can earn so much a week; and as much as they state they can earn a week, I put down in that table.

7909. Have you reason to believe that the labour of some of those employed on task-work is limited to what will enable them to earn this sum, and no more?—As far as I could derive any information upon that point, they generally let their work by the great at such a price as the men could make at regular day wages, and a trifle more; but in no instance that I could find did they earn more than 1*s.* more than those that were employed at task-work.

7910. Have you another table which you wish to submit to the Committee of able-bodied labourers, both before the new law and since the new law, who have not received parochial relief in either 1834 or 1837?—I have, of that class of labourers who were in full employment in 1834 and in 1837; I am preparing a table of that description of labourers, but I had not time to get it ready.

7911. The number of labourers in that class you make out to be 30 in the parish of Westoning?—Yes.

7912. And that table will show the state of the labourers there, who are what are called independent labourers, both before and since the law?—Yes.

7913. *Chairman.*] You seem to have paid particular attention to the parish of Westoning?—I was desirous of confining my particular remarks to a single parish, so that I might be able to draw out a table of that description for one particular parish.

7914. What was your reason for selecting the parish of Westoning?—There were two reasons; first, that it was entirely a rural parish; and the second was, that there was an intelligent man who lived in the parish, who could give me some little assistance, perhaps more than I could have obtained in other parishes; those were the reasons why I selected that parish more than any other.

7915. Do you believe the circumstances of the labourers and the farmers to be the same in Westoning as in the other parishes of the Ampthill Union?—I could not see any great deal of difference; but upon the whole I should think that the condition was rather lower in that parish than in some others.

7916. You do not think the condition of the labourers in the parish of Westoning will be a fair criterion of the others in the union?—It would not be the best or worst.

7917. Mr. *Walker.*] Would it be a fair criterion?—I think it would, for this reason; there are in that parish 12 or 13 labourers who live in the parish, but who do not work in it, and they receive 10*s.* a week; so that, taking them into account, it will place the labourers of that parish on a footing with the labourers of other parishes; and taking the benefit that those labourers receive who work out of the parish and receive 10*s.* a week, I can state the average.

7918. Mr. *Fielden.*] It would not have been possible for you, in the time you have been down in the Ampthill Union, to take more than one parish?—It would not.

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7919. And Westoning being a smaller parish than some of the others, that information was sooner obtained?—Yes; and that intelligent person being in the place, who rendered me some little assistance, was the reason why that was chosen in preference to another.

7920. You have endeavoured, as far as you could, where you made inquiries, to get the best information you could?—I have.

7921. Westoning, from the returns published by the Poor Law Commissioners, was perhaps paying heavier rates than any other parish?—According to the returns it was; but it ought to have been stated that there was a great deal of land in that parish that was not rated; so that, judging from that part that was rated, it would appear as if that was paying more rates than another parish; there was a portion of common land that was not rated, and the farmers holding land there paid higher for that which was rated.

7922. If the rates were heavier and the poor were more upon the parish in that parish than in any other parish, is it not fair to infer that there should be a more manifest improvement in that parish than in any other?—Certainly, there should be; the rates being considered higher there than in any other parish; the improvement ought to have been greater there than in other places, because it was supposed to be the worst.

7923. *Chairman.*] The heaviness of the rates in Westoning parish, as compared with other parishes in the union, would be evidence of a greater amount of poverty in that parish than in others?—Yes; but as I stated, a part of this land was not rated, so that the part which was rated appeared to be rated heavier than it would have been if the whole had been rated.

7924. Mr. *Hodges.*] When you state that persons said to you that they could not tell how they lived, did you observe whether the appearance of the men or their families indicated their existing on insufficient food or food less nutritive than that obtained by others?—Some of them to a great extent.

7925. With regard to beer, did you discover whether beer was given at other times except at mowing or harvest times;—No; I could not perceive that it was.

7926. Did you inquire about that?—Not particularly; I did not.

7927. Mr. *Baines.*] In some of the returns which you have given in, you state that there are persons living upon $4\frac{3}{4}d.$ a week, in one case?—There is one of that description.

7928. Is that an average for the year?—Yes.

7929. Do you believe that that person could continue to live through the year with an average of $4\frac{3}{4}d.$ a week?—That is his income; how he lives I do not know.

7930. *Chairman.*] That is the income he states to you?—Yes, and I believe that to be the income that he has; it is Phillips who has a wife and three children.

7931. Mr. *Baines.*] There were then four persons in one family living through the year upon the average of $4\frac{3}{4}d.$ each for the week?—That is the statement that he makes to me of his earnings; and when I had put it down I was more particular about that man, his sum being the lowest, than I was with any other; he had not been married long to a young widow, who had either two or three children; but, however, they now have three; and I particularly asked him about his income; and when I went down the second time on purpose, I saw him, and he stated that that was correct, in the presence of a number of other labourers.

7932. *Chairman.*] What is the allowance made to an old sick person for out-door relief?—I have not met with any receiving more than $2s.$ and $2s.\ 6d.$; that is the general allowance.

7933. Upon that income can they live comfortably?—I do not know whether they can or not.

7934. If they cannot live comfortably upon an income of $2s.\ 6d.$, how do you think it possible for persons to live upon an income of $4\frac{3}{4}d$?—I do not say they can live comfortably upon $4\frac{3}{4}d.$

7935. I do not ask whether they can live comfortably; but if persons cannot live comfortably upon $2s.\ 6d.$ a week, how can those persons to whom you refer, live upon $4\frac{3}{4}d.$ You have stated that in this case the income was $4\frac{3}{4}d.$; and you have also stated that the allowance to persons who were entirely dependent upon relief, is $2s.\ 6d.$; and that upon that they cannot live comfortably; how do the

the families that you allude to live at all, when the average income is 4¾*d.*?—I cannot tell; but I am quite certain that they cannot live upon that; they must have some other means either one way or another.

7936. Do not you believe that when this income is stated to you at 4¾*d.*, you must to a certain extent be deceived as to the earnings of the persons so situated?—If I was deceived it was in the presence of a certain number of other individuals, and the labourers are not that sort of people, that they would make wilful untruths in the presence of other individuals, who know their circumstances and are connected with them.

7937. Exercise your own understanding, and put the case together; here is one person receiving 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, upon which you say he cannot live comfortably; there is another case of a person living upon 4¾*d.* a week; how can you reconcile the two?—I cannot reconcile them, because I cannot tell how they live upon that.

7938. Do you believe that they do live upon 4¾*d.*?—I believe that they must have some other means of keeping themselves; but that that is the income that they have from wages; that I do believe.

7939. But in those cases, it being, in your opinion, scarcely possible to maintain life upon the average which would result from that statement, do not you believe that they must have some means which they did not disclose to you?—That is my impression.

7940. What is the name of the family that is stated to live upon 4¾*d.* per head per week?—His name is William Phillips.

7941. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is not his name John Knight?—It is; I made a mistake; I can now explain it.

7942. *Chairman.*] The family whom you describe to live during the year upon an average of 4¾*d.* per head per week, appears to consist of an old man and his wife; there are no small children?—No.

7943. To such parties, if they were receiving parochial relief out of the house, and were entirely dependent upon parochial relief, the income would be 5*s.* a week?—Four or five shillings.

7944. Upon that income of 4*s.* or 5*s.* a week, which would be 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* a week for each, could they, in your opinion, live comfortably?—There would be no very great luxury; it would not be very comfortable living, but it would be a living.

7945. It would be barely a living?—It would be barely a living.

7946. That being what you consider necessary for a bare living, how do you consider it possible that those other parties, consisting of an old man and his wife, should be able to live through the year upon 4¾*d.* a week each?—In 1834 he is stated to have four children; he has now none; they are gone out to service, and they contribute a little to their maintenance; that she states distinctly.

7947. Then they are, in point of fact, not living upon the incomes of 4¾*d.* each?—That is their income in wages which they have coming in; but what they have besides,—their children give them a trifle.

7948. To what extent their children contribute to their support you perhaps do not know?—No, I do not know.

7949. Mr. *Baines.*] Does not this open a new feature upon the whole of your evidence; because you now state that those persons may have other sources of support; but your return states only their wages; therefore if this family had other means of support there may be other families in the same situation, who are deriving support from their relations who may be in circumstances to give them support?—Yes; but there are not any other families who have children out at service in the manner these have.

7950. Can you take upon yourself to say that of those 46 families there are none of them that have children that are contributing in any way to their support?—I cannot attempt to say that.

7951. Does that return which you have made to this Committee include the whole of the income of the families, or does it include only the income that they derive from wages?—As far as I am able to procure the information, it gives the whole that they receive from wages or from parochial relief; if they receive any thing from charity that I cannot take any account of.

7952. Or if they receive any thing from their children?—This instance of Knight's is a peculiar instance; the family are peculiarly situated from any of the

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others, by having three children, that had gone out to service in the last year. As far as that goes, I could not pretend to arrive at any data of what they might receive, either from charity or from their children who might be out at service.

7953. Then the return that you have made does not include any thing that either they or any other persons may receive, either from their families or by way of charity?—It does not.

7954. Mr. *Fielden.*] This was an old man who was on the parish books in 1834; you there find him receiving relief, and when he had a family of four children with him, it appears?—Yes.

7955. Could he not in 1834 obtain as much assistance from his children as in 1837?—They were then at home making straw plait, all living with him, and my impression is that he stood as much in need of parish relief in 1837 as he did in 1834.

7956. Do you know his children at all?—I do not; they live at a distance. I had not an opportunity of seeing the children; one lives at Leighton, I believe.

7957. In a gentleman's family, as a servant?—I think not; they are living as farm servants, I believe, but I am not sure.

7958. Mr. *Baines.*] There is another family that is returned with an average income of 9 *d.* per week, James Brinckley; do you know any thing particular of that family?—I know that it is a family that have been very badly off indeed; and, as a proof of that, they have been in the workhouse since the data were collected to make the table on, so that one may fairly presume from that that they are not in good circumstances.

7959. Do you know whether they have any other source of income than that which you return, of 9 *d.* a week per head?—They have not, that I am aware of; I do not believe that they have.

7960. There is another family with 5 *d.* per head, William Lingar; do you know any thing of that family?—Yes.

7961. Will you state to the Committee what particulars you have regarding it?—He is one of those men whom I spoke of the other day, when Lord John Russell was asking me about the farmers not being willing to employ the labourers, because they were inclined to go about poaching, and such like; he is one of those that, because he has no work, goes poaching, and because he goes poaching, he has no work.

7962. Did he state to you how much he derived from poaching?—No, I think not; I think I could not ask such a question as that.

7963. That would be a source of income?—Yes, but it is a source of income that I could not get at any data to put in the table.

7964. In stating the annual income, or weekly income, it would not be requisite that he should state what was the particular source from which it came; but he could have stated, generally, what was the amount?—He states that he was out of work eight months during the year 1837.

7965. Did you understand from that, that having no work for eight months, he received no income for eight months?—I do not know how he could live; it was not for me to ask him; I asked what quantity of work he had in that year, and he states that he had no work for eight months.

7966. But you are capable yourself of judging whether a man could live for eight months without income?—He could not live for eight months without income.

7967. Then, if he stated that to you which you knew to be untrue, was it not proper that you should have guarded this Committee against being misled by this statement?—It is not my intention to mislead this Committee or any other Committee.

7968. Is not the natural tendency of having made a return of that kind, without having stated that fact, to mislead?—I state, in that return, the amount of wages that the men receive; I state the amount extra that they receive in harvest; I state the amount of earnings of their families; but I could not bring a statement of that description to any data; nor did I think that I was misleading the Committee by putting such a table in.

7969. Mr. *Hodges.*] Did you think that you ought to add to the statement of the income of the labourers what they may derive, either from poaching, or from the commission of any other crime?—I did not.

7970. Mr. *Baines.*] But you did not think, that in making the return which

was

was meant to give instruction and information to the Committee, you should have stated, in some way or other, that there were eight months in the year for which there was a return of no income whatever, and that you must therefore presume that the return was not correct?—I could not presume that it was not correct, because I believe it to be correct.

7971. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you not given the number of weeks that William Lingar was employed in the year?—I have stated that he was employed four months in the year, that is 16 weeks, and that he receives so much money during the time; and when I state that, I think I am not misleading the Committee, because I believe it to be true.

7972. Mr. *Baines.*] But are you not misleading the Committee, inasmuch as you do not state that there is a long period during which he is not receiving any income at all?—I did not attempt to show that he had any other income, or had not; I showed that he had this amount of money from wages, and so much from the earnings of his family; and if he had means of procuring income in some other way which was not authorized by law, I did not think that I was misleading the Committee in not giving the amount of it; I show in my table the amount of the earnings of every man as far as I am able to get it; I show the amount of his extra allowance for harvest; I show the amount that he receives from parish relief, and also the amount that he receives from the earnings of his wife and children; that is what I show in this table, and if I find him for eight months without any means of living, every one who sees that, may naturally suppose that this has a tendency to drive men to do that which they would not otherwise do.

7973. What I ask is, whether you were not yourself convinced, when the return was made, that it was not a correct return?—I was not.

7974. You thought that he could live for eight months without any income?—I did not think so, but I thought it a correct return according to the heads, which I have put to every column that I have put in, I have put down under every head what the amounts are, and put them separate.

7975. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you not taken every pains to inquire, and to inform yourself correctly?—I have, and this man I saw.

7976. If you have been deceived by the representation of any labourer, would you be glad to have it corrected?—I stated before that I should be very glad, if I had been deceived, or had made a wrong statement, to be corrected.

7977. In the case of this man, William Lingar, you state him to be a subscriber to one of those benefit clubs of 15*s.*; did you receive that information from him?—I did.

7978. And therefore the fact of being a subscriber to a benefit club does not show that a man is either an industrious labourer, or a provident labourer?—It does not.

7979. *Chairman.*] Have you not, in answer to the question which was put to you just now, stated that those who subscribed to benefit societies were the most regular and industrious of the 46 labourers?—Most of them, but not every one.

7980. Do not you consider that the subscribing to those benefit societies is a proof that the man is not in destitute circumstances, and that his conduct is regular?—But I stated in answer to that, that the man was not in good circumstances, and yet had subscribed.

7981. But generally, if you found that in a particular parish a certain number of labourers were subscribing to those societies, and others not, before you entered into an examination of their circumstances, should not you consider the fact of their subscribing, an indication that they were not in destitute circumstances, and that they were amongst the most regular men in the parish?—I should take that to be the general rule, but not always the case.

7982. Mr. *Fielden.*] This Lingar, it appears, was on the parish books in 1834, and received in that year 3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* relief?—That is in the returns.

7983. You show him in this table to have an income of 4*s.* 1*d.* per head in the year 1834; that is, for himself, he being a single man?—He was not married in 1834.

7984. In 1837 you put him down as being three in the family; is that himself and wife and a child?—It is.

7985. And all you have been able to collect from him as to what he receives in wages, amounts to 5*d.* per week per head for every member of the family?—Yes.

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7986. *Chairman.*] Do you believe that the family lives upon 5*d.* a head?—I do not.

7987. What other earnings do you believe the man has?—I have before stated that he is one of those families to which I referred when I stated to Lord John Russell, the other day, that some of the farmers were not willing to employ labourers, because they went poaching.

7988. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you think that a man with an income of 5*d.* a head for each member of his family per week would become a subscriber to a benefit society?—Not out of 5*d.* a head, he would not.

7989. Mr. *Fielden.*] In the case of James Brinckley; this man appeared to be upon the parish, and received 15*l.* 4*s.* in the year 1834?—He did.

7990. In the year 1837, there is no relief from the parish put down to this man?—No, there is not.

7991. In the year 1834 he had only five in family, and in the year 1837, he appears to have six?—Yes; he has an additional child.

7992. He stands in the table as having worked 30 weeks in the year 1837, and notwithstanding his 30 weeks' work at 9*s.* per week, it reduces him to 9*d.* per head per week for his family as net income?—It does.

7993. *Chairman.*] Do you not believe that that man, when he states that he subsists upon 9*d.* a head per week, must have other resources upon which he lives?—I cannot think that he has.

7994. Did you observe this man's family?—I did.

7995. Were they in ill health?—I cannot answer that question; she is not in good health herself.

7996. Did she appear to be suffering from want of food?—I cannot give an answer as to that; because I am not a medical man, to judge exactly.

7997. The question has been asked you before with respect to other individuals, and you have said that in some instances they appeared to be well, and in others, they appeared to be ill?—She does not look well.

7998. Is the man ill?—He does not appear to be well, he looks thin.

7999. Did the children appear to be well?—They are not very well, they are weak.

8000. Do you believe it to be a correct statement that they live upon 9*d* a head per week?—I do; my impression is that they have no other resources.

8001. If they manage to live upon 9*d.* a week, why should it be necessary, in order to support the poor who are altogether dependent upon the parish to give them 2*s.* 6*d.* each?—Because, though they can live upon 9*d.* a week, I am sure it is not enough; and then they have four little children, so that, take four children at 9*d.* a head, the children are small ones, and that is the statement that they made that that is their income; and as a proof that they must be in a distressed state, they have gone, since that table was made, into the workhouse.

8002. You state this family to live upon 9*d.* a week per head?—That is the information.

8003. Do you believe that information?—I cannot perceive what other method they have.

8004. Do you believe that information?—I had no method of seeing that they had any means but that.

8005. How is the man employed?—He has been out of work a considerable time.

8006. How is the man generally employed?—He was employed 30 weeks in the year 1837.

8007. In what way?—As a farmer's labourer.

8008. Do you know that he is a buyer of hare-skins?—I do not.

8009. Do you know that he is also a buyer of rags?—That he has gone out with a basket to buy rags when he was out of work; he did make that statement, but that he never got 1*s.* a week when he did so.

8010. Did you, in making the statement of this man's income, include what he might be supposed to earn, besides his income as a labourer, from the profits of his trade as a buyer of rags?—I did not; because he states that he has worked 30 weeks; and he said that he got a basket, and went out with his basket, but could not make 1*s.* a week.

8011. Did he state to you that he was a buyer of hare-skins?—He did not; he said he went out to buy rags, but that he could make nothing of it.

8012. Did he state that he was a buyer of hare-skins?—He did not; but when they

they buy one they buy the other; I dare say he might, while in the occupation selling rags, have bought hare-skins at the same time.

8013. You represent his income to be 9*d.* a head a week, for the subsistence of the family; must not the profits, whatever they may be, from buying and selling rags and buying and selling hare-skins, be added to the income?—Yes; but he did not give me the profits of it, because he did not try it long enough to make any profit of it.

8014. Do you believe that the man would have continued to buy rags and hare-skins if he had got no profit?—No; but we have no proof that he did continue that.

8015. How long did he continue it?—Not more than two or three months.

8016. Did he state that he had not earned 1*s.* a week in that way?—Yes, he did.

8017. Mr. *Hodges.*] When you asked this man, and others similarly circumstanced, respecting their earnings, did you believe that they gave the full amount of their lawful earnings?—I did.

8018. Did you suppose that they believed that the evidence which you were collecting from them would be given here, and afterwards printed and published?—I do not think they did, but I never made any secret of it; if persons asked me any questions, I generally said we were collecting this information for the purpose of laying it before the public, so that the public would know how they did live.

8019. When you went into that country to ascertain the condition of the poor, did you not suppose that you were to confine your attention to their lawful and ostensible earnings?—I did.

8020. Did it occur to your in forming an idea of the condition of the labourers, that you were to ascertain what their unlawful, and, perhaps, felonious gains might be?—I should never think it right to make such a statement.

8021. Though you are not prepared to make such a statement, do you believe your information to be correct?—No.

8022. *Chairman.*] Do you consider buying rags and hare-skins as felonious and unlawful gains?—I do not.

8023. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do you not consider poaching and thieving to come under that description?—I do.

TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
6 *April* 1838.

283.

TWENTY-SIXTH AND TWENTY-SEVENTH

REPORTS

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIXES.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
4 *May* 1838.

[*Price* 8*d.*]

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the RELIEF of the POOR under the Orders and Regulations issued by the COMMISSIONERS appointed under the Provisions of the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT; and who were empowered to report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them from time to time to THE HOUSE;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

4 *May* 1838.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Mercurii, 2° die Maii, 1838.

THE Chairman read a Letter from Mr. Bull, of Bradford.

Ordered,—"That the part of it which related to his former examination, be printed."

Extract from Mr. Bull's Letter:—

To *J. Fazakerley*, Esq., M.P., Chairman of the Committee on the Poor Laws

Sir, Bradford, Yorkshire, 21 April 1838.

ACCORDING to the request of the Committee, I have now to state, with reference to the proceedings in which I was concerned at the public meeting at Bradford in February 1837, that the cripple then mentioned is John Brown, now an apprentice with his brother (by the same mother) Samuel Pittam, a tailor, Chapel-lane, Bradford; that the place he (Brown) came from is Litchborough, Northamptonshire, in the Towcester Union, where his mother still lives, whose name is Hannah Brown, a widow, who has received, up to March 29, 1838, for her daughter, Martha Brown, one shilling's worth of bread from the union, which was then withdrawn, upon the ground, that being 12 years old, she was able to provide for herself, but if not, she may go into the workhouse at Towcester.

The name of the young woman reported to have been flogged is Jane Adams, who lives with her mother, Judith Roberts, at Pattishaw, in the same union. Mr. Smales, a schoolmaster in this neighbourhood, has, at my request, visited the persons above mentioned, and has been informed by Jane Adams, that whilst in the Towcester Union workhouse, she was not flogged; she stated that she was twice confined in the dark hole, or "refractory" cell, and had been several times beaten by her mistress with the hand, but not with a whip: the rest of the statement of Brown, the cripple, as to himself, appears to be correct; and it is but justice to him to say, that the account he gave to me, and which he publicly re-asserted in answer to my questions before the public meeting, as to the flogging of Jane Adams, was at the time current in the neighbourhood from whence he had just come, and, from what was stated to my messenger, appears to have been generally believed.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

Geo. S. Bull.

WITNESS.

Mr. *James Turner.*

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Mercurii, 2° die Maii, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Chichester.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Fielden.	Lord John Russell.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Scrope.
Mr. Hodges.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *James Turner*, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *James Turner.*

2 May 1838.

8024. *Chairman.*] IN your former examination you said that you found several persons belonging to the parish of Ampthill, and living in the parish of Ampthill, with large families, who had not had above one day's work in the week since the harvest?—I did.

8025. You were then asked to produce the names of some of those persons, and you said, in answer to question 5953, that you had not looked out a list, not knowing that you should be asked such a question, but that at a subsequent period you would give the names of several individuals of that description; you said, further, that you should have to go through the books in order to do so, but that you would furnish the Committee with those names; have you got those names?—I am now ready to produce them.

8026. Be so good as to produce them?—One is a man of the name of William Redman, having a wife and three children; he was one that stated to me that he had not had more than one day's work a week since the harvest.

8027. Does he belong to Ampthill parish?—He does.

8028. Does he live in Ampthill parish?—Yes.

8029. Is there any other?—Henry Reid.

8030. Does he live in Ampthill parish?—Yes.

8031. What number of children has he?—Five or six.

8032. Are the children young children?—Yes, some of them.

8033. Is there any other?—Joseph Clarke; that is the man whose child died in the night.

8034. Is he an instance of a man with a large family?—He had three children, but one is since dead.

8035. Confine yourself to the cases of numerous families?—At present I am not prepared to put in more of those who had only one day's work in a week; many had only two or three days' work in a week. It was stated at the time I wrote the letter, that those individuals had not had above one day's work a week from harvest.

8036. Are those able-bodied men?—They are; Henry Reid has since been in the workhouse.

8037. You stated in your letter that if any man is found gathering a few sticks, he is sure to dance on the tread-mill for his reward; and then you were asked to produce instances of persons being punished in that manner, and you said you thought you could produce such instances; have you any instances?—I have.

8038. Be so good as to give an instance of what you call gathering a few sticks?—John Chapman was gathering sticks in what is called, I think, the Ring Fence, but however, in a portion belonging to Lord Holland's park, and a month after the sticks had been gathered an information was laid, and on the 21st of December (and my letter bears date the 26th), he was committed to Bedford gaol for a month for stick-stealing.

8039. For what offence was he committed?—My information is for gathering rotten wood.

8040. From whom did you obtain that information?—From Amos Wheeler, who was present with him at the same time; he lives in Millbrook; he was committed to Bedford gaol on the 21st of December along with John Chapman; they were both together.

 8041. Both

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8041. Both for the same offence?—Yes.

8042. Amos Wheeler was the other thief?—Yes.

8043. Did you apply to the magistrates' clerk to obtain a sight of the depositions in this case?—The magistrates' clerk was living at Woburn; I had not an opportunity of so doing; I did intend to do so.

8044. Give the date?— My information is that they were committed on the 21st of December 1837.

8045. Do you know the name of the magistrate before whom they were taken? —I do not; I have another case, if you require it, of the same description; this is the information given me; I shall not be able to give the date exactly in this case; John Money was committed about January 1837, but the date I have not correctly.

8046. What was he committed for?—For gathering dead wood out of the Ring Plantation, belonging to Lord Holland.

8047. Is he belonging to Ampthill?—I believe he is; he lives in Ampthill, and I believe he belongs to Ampthill.

8048. Do you know the name of the magistrates by whom he was committed? —Mr. Musgrave and his son.

8049. Those parties state to you that they are sent in this way to prison for gathering dead wood; did you ask them, when they gave you that information, whether that was the truth?—I did, and made particular inquiry into it.

8050. Did you ask whether they had cut live wood from the trees?—I did; they stated that there was not a bit of live wood about it; and in neither instance was the wood produced before the magistrates.

8051. Did they say that they had not cut the wood from the trees?—They did clearly and distinctly; for I was very particular in making the inquiry.

8052. Mr. *Hodges.*] Did they tell you that they did not cut any wood, dead or alive, from the trees, or that they had merely picked it up from the ground?—I am not sure as to that.

8053. *Chairman.*] You mentioned an instance, when you were before the Committee before the holidays, of John Page, as having gathered a few sticks; are you prepared to give the name of John Page as an instance of the same description? —During the holidays I have not seen John Page, and I have not any thing more to say of John Page than I did before.

8054. (To Mr. *Musgrave.*) Were you committing magistrate in the case of John Page?—I was.

8055. Do you produce the information and complaint of Joseph Reid against John Page and William Savage?—I do; this is the information: "both in the parish of Ampthill, in the county of Bedford, labourers, for unlawfully breaking and damaging, with intent to steal, parts of certain fir trees, then and there growing; the injury thereby being to the amount of 1*s.* at the least, the property of Lord Holland; taken and sworn before me, Henry Musgrave." To that information and complaint John Page and William Savage both pleaded guilty.

8056. (To Mr. *Turner.*) When you have here the information and complaint, and the fact of the parties pleading guilty, do you call that the gathering of a few sticks?—I do not call that gathering dead wood; Page pleaded guilty and paid a certain sum of money, but the other three, to whom I referred, were sent to prison.

8057. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you know whether John Chapman and Amos Wheeler were ever charged before with an information of that kind?—I am not aware.

8058. *Chairman.*] Do you know whether they were or were not?—I do not.

8059. Mr. *Liddell.*] At the time they committed the offence were they in great want and distress?—I believe they were out of work at the time; I have not seen John Chapman.

8060. Do you know, from your own knowledge, that in December 1837 there was a great scarcity of fuel in those parts?—Fuel was scarce, and that was the reason I mentioned this; when I wrote the letter it was to show the scarcity of fuel and the hardships the poor people endured for want of fuel.

8061. *Chairman.*] In 7116 you were asked to point out an expression in a report of the Commissioners, saying, "That no person should be relieved out of the workhouse, unless they are 60 years of age?"—I remember that.

8062. Have you been able to discover that passage in any report of the Commissioners?—I have not; still the impression upon upon my mind is, that there is such an expression, but I am not able to give the data.

8063. Will you turn to the 23d Report, Appendix (B.) giving the earnings of the men mentioned in that paper; in the case of William Odell, he is said to earn in 1834 10*s.* a week?—He is.

8064. And in 1837 he is said to earn only 8*s.* a week?—Yes.

8065. Can you account for his earning only 8*s.* a week in 1837?—There are some of the farmers who in 1837 gave their labourers 8*s.* a week; but in 1834 he was working by task-work, and consequently he was able to earn more money in 1834 than in 1837.

8066. You say that a man at task-work can earn only 1*s.* a week more than by day labour; but this appears to be a case in which he earned 2*s.* a week more?—At that time they would earn 2*s.* a week more; but task-work is let at a lower rate than it was formerly.

8067. But how was it, when task-work was more abundant in 1837 than in 1834, that the men did not earn more at it?—I cannot account for it.

8068. The other men earned the same in both years?—Yes.

8069. With regard to the earnings of those three labourers, Carter, Odell and Cox, in reference to question 6779, the question is this, "You observe in that table a great falling off in the income of those three labourers in the command of the necessaries of life;" and then you answer, "I do, a very great falling off." Then if you turn to this paper, you will find in the instance of Carter his income was improved in 1837, as compared with 1834, and therefore in his case at least there could be no falling off or diminution in the means of procuring the necessaries of life?—I meant to average the whole three together, and then I found a falling off; and as regards the purchasing of the necessaries of life, the price has advanced very considerably between 1834 and 1837.

8070. But in point of fact, the total income of Carter and his family in 1834 was stated by you to be 20*l.* 8*s.*; and the total income of Carter and his family in 1837 was stated to be 25*l.* 8*s.*?—Yes.

8071. Showing a considerable increase in the year 1837; when you distributed this income at so much a head to each of the family, you say that Carter's family had 1½*d.* a head a week in 1837 more than in 1834?—Yes, that is so; but when I said the income of all of them had diminished, I meant to include them together.

8072. In answer to question 6790, you were asked to produce a table of labourers in constant employment in both periods, 1834 and 1837; is that ready?—It is ready, but I have not a copy from it, only the original; and I would rather have a copy from it, for fear of any accident.

8073. Mr. *Fielden.*] On the last day that you were examined you put in a table of 48 labourers who had been referred to?—I did.

8074. Have you any observation which you wish to make with reference to that table?—I have here a summary of the table, which I then put in, and which I would wish to read to this Committee: "The table I put in on the 6th of April, shows that in 1834 the 48 labourers named in it, together with their wives and children, numbered 163 persons; and in 1837, the same 48 labourers, together with their wives and children, numbered 197 persons. The number of weeks these 48 labourers were employed at their occupations as husbandmen in 1834, amounted collectively to 1,061 weeks, an average of 22 weeks for each person. The wages they received for that employment amounted collectively to the sum of 445*l.* 6*s.* The wages of their wives and children collectively amounted, in 1834, to 200*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* The allowance from the parish for work and relief in 1834 amounted to 404*l.* 4*s.*; total income in 1834, 1,049*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* The outgoings for rent and fuel for these 163 persons in 1834 amounted to 256*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a net income applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries, of 793*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, that is an average of 4*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* per head per annum, or 1*s.* 10½*d.* per head per week; which 1*s.* 10½*d.* would purchase 20¾ pints of wheat, at the average price of wheat during 1834."

8075. *Chairman.*] What do you call the average price of wheat in 1834?—Forty-six shillings and two-pence.

8076. What do you call the price of bread?—I do not know the price of bread. "The number of weeks these 48 labourers were employed at their occupations in husbandry or on the railroad in 1837, amounted collectively to 1,821 weeks, an average of 38 weeks for each person; the wages they received for that employment amounted collectively to the sum of 823*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; the wages of their wives and children collectively amounted in 1837 to 201*l.* 6*s.*; the allowance from the parish as relief to four of these families only in 1837 was 34*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*; total

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total income in 1837, 1,059*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*; the out-goings for rent and fuel for these 197 persons in 1837, including 9*l.* 15*s.* paid by 13 of these labourers to benefit clubs, amounted to the sum of 294*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*; leaving a net income applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries of 764*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, that is 3*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* per head per annum, or 1*s.* 6*d.* per head per week, which 1*s.* 6*d.* would purchase 13¾ pints of wheat, at the average price of wheat during the year 1837; thus these husbandmen and their wives and children, by being thrown on their own resources, under the operation of the new Poor Law, have, notwithstanding they have done 760 weeks more labour for their employers, suffered a reduction in their net money income per head per week of from 1*s.* 10½*d.* in 1834, to 1*s.* 6*d.* per head per week in 1837, or 20 per cent., and in the means that money gave them to purchase wheat, a reduction of from 20¾ pints per head per week in 1834, to 13¾ pints per head per week in 1837, or 34 per cent."

8077. Lord *J. Russell.*] With regard to the total, does it appear that with respect to the first year, 1834, the total is 1,049*l.*, including 404*l.*, the amount of parish relief?—Yes.

8078. And that the total in 1837 is 1,059*l.*, including 34*l.*, the amount of parish relief?—Yes.

8079. *Chairman.*] From whom did you obtain this statement of the income of the labourers during the two periods respectively?—For the statement of the amount of relief in 1834 we have examined the parochial returns, and we could ascertain from the parties the amount of wages which they received.

8080. When you say you could ascertain from the parties, that is, you have a statement from the parties of what they stated to you to be their wages?—Yes, of what they had a week.

8081. Did you correct that statement by any other information?—As far as it was possible, I did; in many instances I have gone to the farmers and to the persons who employed them, and ascertained what were their wages at that time.

8082. And you found that statement confirmed by the statements of the farmers?—In many instances I did.

8083. As to the times at which they were in work, upon what did they found that statement?—We referred to the parish books, and every week I did not find these families upon the parish book receiving relief for work, we have given them credit for being in work at the time; on all occasions when we have conversed with intelligent men, farmers and overseers, and persons of that description, they have stated that that was the case, for if they had lost one single day, they would have gone for a day's wages to the overseer.

8084. It was the practice for them, as soon as they were out of work, to go to the overseer for parish relief, and they obtained it universally?—Yes, and when we have not found them on the books, we have given them credit for being in work.

8085. Relief was given without any work?—They were put upon the gravel-pits, which could not be called work, and which was, no doubt, a bad practice.

8086. You have stated the earnings of the men, but what means had you of ascertaining the earnings of the members of the family during that time?—The first thing we did was to ascertain the wages of the family, and the work that they were employed on, and they would tell us as near as they could what their earnings would be; but having been so much amongst them, and asked the labourers the question so often, I could almost form an idea myself.

8087. Mr. *Barneby.*] Are you aware of the comparative price of clothing in the years 1834 and 1837?—It could not make much difference to them; the quantity of clothing they purchased in 1837 would not make much difference, for it is not much they have been able to purchase.

8088. What was the comparative price?—I am not aware.

8089. If it was cheaper in 1837 than in 1834, you have not taken that into consideration?—I have not.

8090. Mr. *Miles.*] You have stated that in the various accounts the labourers have given you of their earnings, those accounts were corroborated by the farmers; were they in all instances?—Not quite in all instances, but very near it.

8091. Did you find, upon your inquiries of the farmers, that in some instances the labourers had given you a false return of their earnings?—In very few instances indeed.

8092. In those few instances, had they stated that their earnings were either below or above what the farmers stated they had really paid and the labourers had really

really earned?—At present I am not aware of more than one instance, and in that the farmer stated that the man had earned 1 *s.* a week more than he had stated to us; but the farmer having no books, and the man having none, I should almost think that the man was as likely to recollect as the farmer.

8093. Did you not find very great difficulty in getting at the earnings of the respective families of the labourers you inquired into?—I have just stated that we could ascertain pretty accurately from persons who thoroughly understood all the prices of lace and plait what they could have earned four years ago; we were then able to take the ages of the family, 12 and 14, and so on, and we could form something like a correct account in that way; but we always, besides that, took what the mothers said, and compared it, as well as we were able, with what we imagined would be the sum earned.

8094. Is it not the practice, in the Union of Ampthill, occasionally to employ women and children in the fields?—I believe not.

8095. Not at any time of the year for the purpose of husbandry?—I have not heard of it being done.

8096. Did you make inquiries?—We did often, and never could ascertain that they were so employed; the women and children were employed in making lace and plait, and would get more money in that way than in the fields, employed by the farmers; and so many boys and men being out of work, I should say that the women and children were not employed in the fields.

8097. And you took the prices, as they stated them to you, of plaiting and making lace?—Yes.

8098. Mr. *Barneby.*] You appear to have commuted the weekly sum of money which you state the family had received per week by a certain quantity of wheat, and you have stated that in the year 1834 that would amount to 20 pints per head per week?—Yes.

8099. Do you think that each person would require 20 pints of wheat per week to maintain him?—I do think that some of them would require a great deal more; but if it would require 20 pints per head per week to maintain a number of those individuals, from what are they to get all the other things which they want? When I state this, I take this as the staple commodity used in the house, and the price of which generally regulates the rest of the articles, and that is why I take it in wheat.

8100. Do you think that each person in a family would require or use 20 pints of wheat per week?—No.

8101. And, therefore, by your having commuted the earnings into wheat, you have placed before this Committee the most unfavourable impression that you could, in consequence of the price of wheat in those two years?—I am told by the Assistant Poor Law Commissoiner for the Ampthill Union, that wages are regulated by the price of wheat, and that is the reason why I have reduced it into wheat.

8102. Have you not placed it in the most unfavourable light that you could, in consequence of the rise in wheat between the year 1834 and the year 1837?—I do not consider that I have placed it in any other light than it really is; this is the fact; and as I am told that the price of wheat regulates the price of labour, and as wheat is the principal commodity used in that part of the country, and it rises and falls in proportion as other necessaries of life fall, I have taken that.

8103. Supposing that it should be necessary for a family to have 10 pints per week per head for their maintenance, the reduction would not be so great from 10 to 6 as it would be from 20 to 13?—It would not, if other things did not rise as well; but the price of other things rises as wheat does.

8104. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have stated at the foot of the Table of three labourers which you gave in on a former day, that the price of wheat in 1834 was 46*s.* 2*d.* per quarter, and that the price of wheat in 1837 was 55*s.* 9*d.* per quarter?—That is from the Gazette.

8105. That shows that the same money would have a less command over wheat in 1837 than in 1834?—That is what I meant by reducing it into wheat, to show how much less they could buy in 1837 than in 1834.

8106. The question was not whether they could live upon the quantity of wheat that they could purchase in either one year or the other, but a question of fact as to the command which money had over wheat in those two years?—Certainly, that is what I meant by that.

8107. In the Table which you put in on the last day of your examination, a

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summary of which you have now read, you state that the number in the families collectively were, in 1834, 163 persons, and that in 1837 the same labourers, by an increase of family, amounted to 197 persons; had not more workers come into operation in the latter year than there were in the former, in consequence of this increased number in the families?—Certainly.

8108. Some children who were not able to work in the year 1834, had become able to work in the year 1837, and ought to have added to the income of the families?—Certainly; those children who in 1834 were from six to eight years of age, would not be able to do any thing in 1834, but would be able to earn something in 1837, consequently there has been more work done by the families; but the straw-plait and the lace trade are a great deal worse now than they were then, and though there are more workers in the family in 1837 than in 1834, that is the reason why there is not more money earned in proportion to the quantity of work done.

8109. That reduces the means per head which those persons have of living?—It does, in the manner I have stated.

8110. Your summary shows a reduction of from 1*s.* 10½*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per head for those families to subsist upon?—It does.

8111. Mr. *Miles.*] Though there are more added to the family now who may assist in the increase of the wages of the family, have not several of those been born since 1834?—The increase from 163 to 197 is by births in every case.

8112. Mr. *Fielden.*] Notwithstanding this increase in the number of the family, and the increase in the number of workers, the net income in 1834 is about 30*l.* less than it was in 1837?—It is.

1813. *Chairman.*] Though there was a diminution of income in 1837 as compared with 1834, the income which those men derived from employment and from work is much increased in 1837 as compared with 1834?—Certainly.

8114. What is the amount of the increase of employment?—The increase is from an average of 22 weeks to an average of 38 weeks.

8115. As regards the whole 48 labourers?—Yes.

8116. Their employment is increased in the proportion of 38 to 22?—Yes, making a total of 760 weeks.

8117. Seven hundred and sixty weeks more employment in 1837 than in 1834?—Yes, that is my statement.

8118. Therefore the income which they possessed in 1834 was mainly derived from parochial assistance?—The amount which they received from parochial assistance in 1834 was 404*l.* 4*s.*

8119. How was that parochial assistance given?—It was given as wages for those men, and they were in the gravel-pits and on the roads doing very little, or I may almost say, doing nothing, or worse than nothing, if I may be allowed the expression.

8120. Were they placed together in great numbers loitering away their time?—They were.

8121. Was that attended with great irregularity and immorality?—I think I stated before, that that was a practice which produced immense mischief.

8122. What was the description of mischief produced by that practice?—Whenever men are congregated together either in this parish or any other, and paid money for not working, I am quite sure, so much do I know of human nature, that it will tend to produce in them idle habits, which otherwise they would never incur.

8123. If those habits were produced in the people from having been relieved in the manner you describe, their families were not likely to have received the same benefit from their income that they would have derived from the same amount of income if they had been in regular employment?—At present a great many of them would be six or eight weeks having no work; formerly when they had no work, they had always something to depend upon; but now, when they have no work for six or eight weeks, it is then they are suffering the privations I have before described.

8124. But if placing a number of those people together in gravel-pits, where they did little or no work, had the effect of producing among them, as you describe, idle and disorderly habits during a great part of the year, in which they seem to have been occupied in this manner, must not the effect of their acquiring those habits have been injurious to the interests of their families?—It must have been.

8125. Would

8125. Would it have been likely that those men, acquiring idle and disorderly habits, would have carried home to their families the same proportion of their income that they would carry home when they were regular and industrious workmen?—I am not aware.

8126. If idle and disorderly habits are produced by one description of occupation, and regular and industrious habits are produced by another, must it not follow that that which leads to bad habits would be prejudicial to the interests of families?—I admit that.

8127. Then, describing as you do, that the tendency of this occupation was to produce idle and disorderly habits, to that extent the families must have suffered?—So they must; if the men did not bring their money home, but spent it in public-houses, their families must have suffered; but I am not aware that there was any great deal of that, there always will be some, I admit, and under any circumstances there will be some of that description.

8128. No doubt, under any circumstances there will be some idleness and some disorder; but if a particular description of occupation, by the congregation of vast numbers of people together in gravel-pits, where they loiter away their time, has the effect of producing habits of idleness and disorder, is it likely that men imbued with those habits will carry back to their families the same amount of their earnings as they would when employed at steady work?—I should think not.

8129. Mr. *Miles.*] From the account which you have now put in of the relative wages of those labourers in the year 1834 and in the year 1837, and likewise the amount of poor-rates paid in the year 1834 in aid of wages, would it not appear that a great part of that sum, which is now saved to the farmers by the reduction of poor-rates, is now paid by them as wages to independent labourers?—Not a great part of it, not much of that.

8130. What becomes of it then?—I find in the figures which have been published, that they have saved 60 per cent. in rates; now, I find if they have saved 60 per cent. they have not paid 60 per cent. more.

8131. What is the usual rate of wages?—From 8*s.* to 9*s.* a week.

8132. *Chairman.*] What is the additional quantity of employment in 1837, as compared with 1834, of these labourers?—Seven hundred and sixty more weeks.

8133. Mr. *Miles.*] The diminution of rates being 404*l.* 4*s.*, and the sum now paid extra in wages being 342*l.*, does it not appear that what in the year 1834 was unprofitably paid by farmers, to the demoralization of the labourers, in poor-rates, is now laid out by them in the payment of wages to independent labourers, or very nearly the whole of it?—It certainly would be so if the whole of that money had been paid in the parish to which this referred; but I think the Committee will remember that I stated a number of them were on the railroad, and it is on the railroad where those men did receive that money; it has not been paid in labour by the farmers of the parish to which I refer, but a great portion on the railroad.

8134. *Chairman.*] What proportion of that has been paid on the railroad?—If I had my table here, which has been mislaid, I could state the number of weeks' labour on the railroad.

8135. Mr. *Walker.*] Is not the remuneration for labour greater on the railroad than it is for the agricultural labour in the country?—Certainly; the wages of the labourers on the railroad are 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, but when I made my calculation they could not give them at 15*s.* per week, for they all stated that they never made more than five days a week, so that I gave the men credit for 12*s.* 6*d.* a week.

8136. Mr. *Hodges.*] Is this railroad employment going on now?—The railroad is opened now for 45 miles, which is some 10 miles below where those men who went from this parish were working; and those men who worked on the railroad belonging to the various parishes adjoining this, where this Table is made from, are most of them now out of employ.

8137. Then, if that is the case, there does not appear to be a demand for their labour in the farming districts in which they live?—There is very little greater demand now, as far as I could learn, from what there used to be.

8138. You have been describing a district where the plaiting forms a resource for the families of the labourers?—I have.

8139. If, therefore, that resource should not prevail in other districts which are purely agricultural, and nearly similarly circumstanced with the district which

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you have been describing, the distress of the labourers must be still greater than in those districts which you are describing?—I am sure it must, and as a proof of that, some parts of the district to which I have referred, and to which I have paid some attention, are not occupied in plait, but in making lace; those employed in making plait will earn double the wages of those who make lace, and those districts where the lace is made I find are much worse off than those where the plait is made.

8140. Do you apprehend that this sort of domestic manufacture of lace and plait has had any tendency to increase the population of those districts?—I cannot speak to that point; I do not understand it.

8141. Mr. *Fielden.*] The work on the railroad is likely soon to cease in that neighbourhood, is it not?—Yes, it is very soon to finish in that part of the line; where it is not finished, they do not engage any fresh hands now.

8142. *Chairman.*] You state the wages of Ampthill to be about 8*s.* or 9*s.* a week?—That is the price paid for day labour.

8143. I have here a list of 19 labourers employed by one master in the parish of Ampthill, and the wages are 14*s.*, 13*s.*, 12*s.*, 11*s.*, none below 11*s.*; 13*s.*, 12*s.*; 13*s.* and so on; and you stated that the single men are generally paid less than the married men, and that you know few instances of single men being paid the same as the married men?—Yes.

8144. I find among this list which has been given to me, two single men receiving 12*s.*, and one 10*s.*; and in another parish, Millbrook, which is in the Union of Ampthill, a list of seven labourers, employed by one person, who are receiving 13*s.*, 12*s.*, 11*s.* and 10*s.*, none below 10*s.*; and here is also a parish in the Ampthill Union in which labourers are receiving 13*s.*, 13*s.*, 12*s.*, 12*s.*, 13*s.*, 13*s.*, 12*s.*, none below 12*s.*?—I should very much wish to see that list.

[*The list was handed to the Witness.*]

8145. Have you any observations to make upon that list?—The Committee will remember that the first day I came before them, I stated the wages to be 9*s.* a week in general, but that there was a Mr. Morris who gave his labourers 12*s.*; I find some of these are the very labourers.

8146. You said that Mr. Morris had died, and that the labourers ceased to receive those wages?—I did not; I stated that Mr. Morris was dead, and the fear was that they would not receive the same wages; I find this headed, "Labourers employed by Mr. John Morris, in agricultural business."

8147. Is that the Mr. John Morris that you alluded to?—This will be a member of the same family; I find in this list, put into my hand by the Chairman, James Bunker earning 11*s.* a week; I have seen James Bunker, and James Bunker tells me that he had 9*s.* a week the former part of the year 1837, and 10*s.* the other part of the year.

8148. Is it not probable that the difference between those two statements is, that the one statement is the statement of mere wages, and the other is the statement of what he may earn by advantages of one sort and another, faggots and wood, or something of that sort?—My information is that he is a thresher.

8149. What do you state to be the price of plaiting straw?—It varies almost as much as their appearance does.

8150. Will this statement, from the information you have received, appear to you to be correct, "An average plaiter can make 20 yards a day of the common sort of plait, that is to say Devon, old Dunstable, Luton and pattern plait;" does it agree with your information, that an average plaiter can make 20 yards a day?—It does not.

8151. What should you say an average plaiter can make?—About three score or three score and a half in the week; they call them scores.

8152. That would be about half that?—A little more than half that; if there are plaiters who do a score a day of that description, there are 20 who do not do more than half that amount.

8153. Should you say this was the average price, "1*s.* a score may be called the average price?"—A great deal of that depends upon the quality, whether it is good or not.

8154. My information goes on to say, "1*s.* may be called the average price, that is to say 6*s.* a week, supposing them to do a score a day, from which 1*s.* must be deducted for the straws, leaving 5*s.* a week as the average earnings of an average plaiter;" do you agree in that statement?—I do not, for this reason; that,

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that, having been so much amongst them, having asked the questions so often, and received the same answers in so many instances, I cannot think that they could every one be telling an untruth, either at one time or another; that is the reason why I cannot believe that the statement can be true, because I have never heard it made by any of the labourers themselves, from beginning to end, that ever they could earn any thing like that amount of money.

8155. The statement goes on to say this: "Girls and women (the former statement was probably with respect to men), average plaiters, who make Tuscan or Leghorn plait, earn from 2*s.* to 3*s.* a week more than the above, that is, they would earn about 7*s.* or 8*s.* a week;" does that agree with your information?—It does not.

8156. What do you think they could earn at the Tuscan or Leghorn?—The best workers will earn about 5*s.* a week, but I am speaking of the very best; but others do not earn more than 4*s.* a week; the bent-work is considerably better than the straw.

8157. The statement goes on to say this: "Children are earning in this district from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a week at coloured plait; very small children can earn 1*s.* 6*d.*;" does that agree with your information?—It does not.

8158-59. What should you say children were earning at coloured plait?—All the accounts that I have received, and I have taken an exceeding deal of pains upon it, have been, that children from 9 years of age would earn from 6*d.*, if they got up to 10 years or 11 years they would begin to earn 1*s.* a week.

8160. Do you know the name of a Mr. Wheeler, a merchant, in Luton, engaged in purchasing this straw plaiting from the people?—I do not, but his information would not be applicable to the Ampthill Union; there is a market for plait in Luton, and with those people that can take it to market it fetches a better price than with those who have to sell it and get bread for it at once.

8161. How far is Luton from Ampthill?—Fourteen miles.

8162. Is not the merchant who buys these things in the habit of sending people round the country to collect them?—He is; there are always persons who buy the plait from persons in needy circumstances, and in small portions, two or three days' work at once, and those persons do not get so good a price as if they could take it to the market at Luton.

8163. If the difference is so considerable between Luton and Ampthill, and the distance between the two places is only 14 miles, would it not be worth the while of the plaiters to make an arrangement to take their plait to Luton in order to sell it there?—There are a great many that cannot wait, but must sell it beforehand, and hence arises the lowness of the price that they get compared with what they would have if they sold it at Luton.

8164. Mr. *Miles.*] Are the people in such a state that the hucksters will not trust them and allow them to run up a score?—They are, in many instances.

8165. Mr. *Fielden.*] How do those persons employed in plaiting obtain their work?—They buy the straws, I am speaking of common straws now, from persons who draw them from the wheat-sheaves; they cut the heads off, and sell them to them; they sell the plait to any body they choose; but, with respect to the coloured straws, they are answerable to the person who lets out the coloured work, and, with respect to the bents, they are obliged to fetch the bents out, and to take the work back plaited to the person from whom they fetched the bents.

8166. From the information you have been able to obtain, do you think they make the best use of the means they have to obtain the best prices for their work?—Under the circumstances in which they are placed, I believe they do.

8167. Would not the poverty which you spoke of naturally induce them to do that, if there were no other motive?—It does; they have frequently told me when I have said "How do you live?" "We get a bit of plait, and we take it and get a pottle loaf, or two pottle loaves, for our plait;" carrying it on, as we say in the north, "from hand to mouth."

8168. *Chairman.*] Are the parishes of Toddington, Shefford and Clophill parishes in the Ampthill Union?—Shefford is not, Toddington is not, Clophill is.

8169. Is there a plait-market in Clophill?—There is a plait-buyer lives on the road between Clophill and Maldon; but I am not aware of any market in Clophill.

8170. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do they sell this plait to the dealers in bread, or do they exchange

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exchange it?—They sell it, I believe, in some instances; but I am not very well conversant with that part, to whom they sell it; I have scarcely had information enough to be sure whether they exchange it for bread, or whether they sell it.

8171. But you believe, from the information you have received, that such an exchange does take place, either of the article for another, or that they are paid for it, and that the money is laid out in bread?—That such an exchange does take place, with or without money, I am certain; but whether it is with or without I am not aware.

8172. With reference to some of the labourers, the rate of whose wages has been referred to, are some of those employed by a brewer who employs them for other purposes than agricultural labour?—This paper says, "Labourers employed by Mr. John Morris in agricultural business;" so, I presume from that, that it alludes to the labourers which he has on his farm.

8173. But do not those who are employed in going out with drays, and doing the work of a brewer's labourer, receive better wages than those employed in agricultural labour only?—Certainly; those men that work at this brewery have their 10*s.* a week, and their beer besides.

8174. You have already stated to the Committee that you have taken great pains to ascertain what the labourers receive, not only from the labourers themselves, but from the farmers who employ them, in some instances?—I have.

8175. And you have uniformly, or nearly so, said that you found the statements made by both parties to agree?—In general; very often I did.

8176. And, having been in all the parishes, can you have any doubt in your own mind that the information you have received is correct?—I have not a doubt on my mind.

8177. Your object, you have stated to the Committee, has been to ascertain the truth in making those inquiries, and you have also said that you should be very glad to be corrected by any one in evidence, if you have committed any error; that is your feeling still?—It is; and I have taken exceedingly great pains.

8178. Have you, since the Committee sat last, been down again in the Ampthill Union, to make inquiries?—I have; I went down immediately after the Committee broke up, and I remained there till I was called for on Monday.

8179. Have you made inquiries with the view of ascertaining whether there was any foundation for the doubts respecting some cases which you submitted to the Committee, which were thrown out by some gentlemen in the room, as to the correctness of them?—I have; I made particular inquiries into some of those cases, upon which there appeared to be doubt before this Committee.

8180. One question which was put to you before, was, how these people lived?—It was; it was often put.

8181. And your answer was, that they stated to you, almost invariably, that they could not tell themselves?—It was; I made that answer.

8182. Have you reason to believe that they are unwilling to tell, if they can tell?—No, I am not; I believe they would tell if they could; but their manner of living is such, that they themselves cannot describe it. I have often asked the question, and more especially while I have been down this latter time, "How have you lived?" and the answer in many instances has been, "If you were to ask on the Saturday night, how I had lived the three last days, I could not tell you."

8183. With regard to men out of work, is there any thing which you wish to state on that subject, which has turned up in the inquiries during your recent visit to Ampthill?—As far as regards the people out of work, I am confirmed in all that I have said before; I believe I was perfectly correct, and I have seen no reason, after some pains that I have taken, to make any other statement than what I have, that there were a great many that were out of work, and that there are a great many now that are out of work; and as a proof of it, I think I shall be right if I state, that of the able-bodied labourers that are out of work, a very great many made application to the board last Thursday, stating that they were out of work, and had no means of living.

8184. Will you state to the Committee what you have heard was the result of that application?—I am told that in no instance were the able-bodied relieved, except by an offer of the workhouse. Some cases were of an exceedingly distressing kind, but no relief could be given to them, because the labourers were able-bodied,

bodied, at least I beg to correct myself when I say, could not; it could have been given, but there was none given.

8185. Is there any information which you wish to give the Committee relative to the case of Samuel Bonner, mentioned in question 7486?—Samuel Bonner is the person who was alluded to, who it was said was receiving 9*s.* a week from the Duke of Bedford, and at the same time was receiving 2*s.* 6*d.* from the parish; the facts of the case are, that Samuel Bonner was receiving 2*s.* 6*d.* a week; he applied to a steward belonging to the Duke, who gave him a job of, I think they call it, burning turf, but however, burning it in the fields, for which job he paid him 6*s.* a week; when Samuel Bonner got this job of work, he did not apply for his 2*s.* 6*d.*, and it was left with a shopkeeper of the name of Attlee, in Westoning; for three weeks Samuel Bonner did not know that the money was there at all; Samuel Bonner sent for some articles out of the shop, and the shopkeeper sent word back that he had a fortune for him, that he had 2*s.* 6*d.* a week for him for three weeks; he would not have it; he went on the Monday and told him he would not have it; on the Saturday morning it remained there, and got to four weeks, and then it was 10*s.*; a girl about 13 years of age, to whom he is grandfather, took part of the shop goods from Atllee's on Saturday evening home, and they were kept in the end; the fact was that he kept those, he sent them back first, and they were sent a second time, and he kept them, and the shopkeeper sent the remainder, which amounted to the sum of 10*s.*; I saw the shopkeeper; I saw the mistress; she made the statement how it was; the farmers of the parish did not think that Samuel Bonner was wrong, but it turned out that Samuel Bonner had been receiving parochial relief from the Ampthill Union for a great number of weeks; on a subsequent occasion, when he had finished his job of burning, they again placed him on the parish books; so that if the charge of refusing out-door relief to Samuel Bonner had been just, it was unjust in them again to give him relief, so that they themselves gave him relief, and then say that they refused it because he was receiving 2*s.* 6*d.* a week and 9*s.* a week from the Duke of Bedford.

8186. Mr. *Miles.*] Did you get the dates of all those different transactions?—It would be about two years ago since this 10*s.* was paid to Attlee, for it was at the time that another relieving officer was on, different from the one that now is on, and he has been on for very nearly two years, but I cannot say the date.

8187. In ascertaining the truth or falsehood of this statement, dates would be very necessary indeed, would they not?—The returns which we have would show the dates exactly, and the returns are not here.

8188. *Chairman.*] Did Samuel Bonner tell you at the same time that he was employed with his son Peter, last summer, hoeing turnips, and earned a considerable sum of money at that?—He did not, because I did not inquire concerning that when I was down; I inquired concerning the money being stopped, and the account which was put in, and I did not inquire about his earnings since.

8189. Is he now receiving relief?—He is not.

8190. Does he complain of not receiving relief?—He does.

8191. At the time that he complained of not receiving relief, did he state that he was earning a considerable sum in hoeing turnips?—He did not; he is 77 years of age; he cannot earn much money at 77 years of age.

8192. Did he state that last week he and his son were employed at Mr. Peter's, and earned a considerable sum of money?—He did not.

8193. Did he state that since then he has been jobbing about and picking and selling stones, and is supposed to have earned at that work 5*s.* a week?—He states that he did job and sell stones, but that he did not earn 1*s.* a week; and that statement was made to me in the presence of a number of other individuals, who, if he had been telling untruths, would have contradicted him.

8194. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did Samuel Bonner tell you that he had refused to take this 2*s.* 6*d.* a week when he was in the employ of the Duke of Bedford?—He did.

8195. Have you made inquiries to satisfy yourself that the money which was said to have been paid to Samuel Bonner never went to Samuel Bonner?—The money did not go, but Attlee, the shopkeeper, sent 10*s.* worth of goods out of his shop by the girl to him.

8196. But after this period Samuel Bonner again made application for relief to the board, and it appears, from the returns at Ampthill, that Samuel Bonner was relieved regularly with 2*s.* a week for some weeks afterwards?—Yes, he was.

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8197. If Samuel Bonner had practised any imposition on the board or on the relieving officers, would it not have been easy for them to detect him in this imposition before they renewed his relief?—Most assuredly.

8198. Does not the circumstance of their not doing this, raise in your mind a confirmation of Samuel Bonner's statement being true?—I have no doubt of the truth of it.

8199. *Chairman.*] With regard to Samuel Bonner, I have a bill here; the statement is this—" Sir, I have a sent an account of the money which I paid Bonner and son for turnip hoeing;" it begins July 15, 1837, and ends the 25th of August, and the sum paid is 8*l.* 10*s.*, and there is in a part of the statement, dated the 29th of July, an entry of 4*s.* relief, which I suppose Samuel Bonner must have received at that time; then there is another bill, also " Samuel Bonner and Co.;" does he work with his family?—He has a large family, three or four sons.

8200. One month before Michaelmas 1837, and three weeks after, 54 acres of wheat setting, at 6*s.* an acre, about the amount of 16*l.* 4*s.*, two men and six boys; then I suppose Samuel Bonner is in the habit of engaging to undertake a certain description of work?—I cannot think that he is; I have no account that he is; I do not dispute that he is, but I cannot think that a man of 77 years of age is a man that would engage in many jobs of work.

8201. This is the statement the man made to the board of guardians on Thursday last; he appeared at the board on the 26th of April 1838, and the following statement was elicited from him, " that himself and son had set 50 acres of wheat for one gentleman, at 6*s.* an acre, and the time it took was six weeks, and that in dividing the money, his son had 12*s.* more than he;" so that he received a considerable part of the money, but that might be to be divided among others, and consequently this old man, who is stated to be incapable of work, earned 24*s.* and his son 26*s.*?—I think it very improbable that a man 77 years of age, should earn 24*s.* a week.

8202. Do you not think it probable, that if 24*s.* a week are assigned as the share of Samuel Bonner, he would have had to divide some portion of that among the boys he employed?—He must have a considerable portion to divide, if he received 24*s.* a week.

8203. Mr. *Fielden.*] That allows to Samuel Bonner and his boys an acre a day; have you been able to ascertain that a man and two boys had been able to do an acre a day while you have been down to Ampthill?—I have not, nor have I ascertained that they can do it.

8204. You think that this story of Samuel Bonner, at the age of 77 earning 24*s.* a week, is not worth notice?—I think it is proving too much.

8205. *Chairman.*] When you give that opinion with regard to the earnings of 24*s.* a week, has it ever been assumed that Samuel Bonner received the whole of that 24*s.* himself?—Certainly not; he would have two or three boys to pay.

8206. What would he pay those two or three boys?—At the highest it would be 6*d.* a day, which would be 3*s.* a week, 9*s.* to be deducted from the 24*s.*, leaving him 15*s.*

8207. Fifteen shillings would be that which would remain to the share of Samuel Bonner?—Yes.

8208. Mr. *Fielden.*] With respect to the case of Susan Deacon, on your evidence some doubts were thrown; I find, in 7583, this question put to you: " Do you know that, upon the average, she has two midwifery cases a week, and that for each case she has 4*s.*? and your answer was, " She stated that she had 3*s.* for a case of that sort, but often went unpaid;" have you made any inquiries, and do you wish to make any communication relative to Susan Deacon?—I do; I have seen Susan Deacon three times; I first saw her, and related to her what had been said, and begged of her if she could furnish me with the number of cases that she had had for the last 12 months; on going again, subsequently, she did so, and stated that she had had in the year 21 cases, from the date of the statement being made here, 12 months back, 18 of which she had been paid for at 3*s.* each, and three she had not got paid for; so that the 104 in the year were reduced to 21.

8209. And of those 21 only 18 were paid for?—That was what she stated.

8210. Do you think that this woman would be able to give the names of those she attended in their confinement?—I should think she would, but I did not ask for the names.

8211. Then

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8211. Then is it your opinion that the statement conveyed in this question is totally untrue?—Totally untrue; that was my impression at the time it was made, and I had it confirmed when I was there.

8212. Mr. *Miles.*] Is the woman in the habit of going out as nurse, besides attending the cases of midwifery?—I do not remember that she is in the habit of being a nurse.

8213. Did you inquire of her?—I did.

8214. Mr. *Fielden.*] To question 7311, which was this, "Generally speaking, do you find in the Ampthill Union that wages have diminished?" you answered, "Not in day-work, but in task-work they have diminished to a great extent, in work wrought by the great, in every instance the wages have decreased, that is, threshing used to be 2*s.* a load, and now it is done at 1*s.* 8*d.*, and in some places at 1*s.* 6*d.*;" is there any thing you wish to say to the Committee, arising out of that question and answer?—A doubt being expressed of the truth of such a statement, I took some pains to inquire, in order to set the thing as clearly as possible before the Committee; I have taken the names of a number of labourers, with the prices they used to have, and the prices they have now, and I have done the same with farmers as well, and I will put it in: "John Heaton, a labourer in Westoning parish, states, that he has been a bean-setter for several years; five years ago he had 2*s.* a bushel for setting; last year and the present year he set them at 1*s.* 6*d.* a bushel; no farmer in the parish in which he resided, which is Westoning, has given more, only three, and they have given 1*s.* 8*d.* this year for setting beans: Thomas Russell is a labourer in Westoning, is now making a ring fence," a description of fence which is used very frequently, "at 2*d.* a pole; four years ago, would have had 3*d.* for the same job, and states that task-work has generally declined in the same proportion throughout his parish: Robert Hilliard, a labourer in the parish of Westoning, states, he has 1*s.* 8*d.* a load of five bushels for threshing wheat; never had less than 2*s.* before he went to his last place, about two years ago; four years back had 2*s.* for exactly the same work."

8215. Mr. *Barneby.*] Does not the price of threshing vary very much in different years, according to the production and casting of the wheat?—I believe it has varied at different times; but it has varied downward, and not upward.

8216. Do you know comparatively what the casting of the wheat was at those different periods?—I do not; but I will show before I have done how much more they have to do: "Edward Underwood, a labourer in Millbrook parish, is digging gravel by the great, for Mr. Swaffhill, at 10*d.* a yard; Mr. Swaffhill used to give William Gibbs 1*s.* a yard for the same work."

8217. *Chairman.*] Did Edward Underwood, when he told you this, tell you that it was the same description of work?—He did.

8218. Did he tell you that it was dug in the same pit?—Yes.

8219. Did he not tell you that it was dug in a different pit, and was work of a different description?—He did not.

8220. Did he not tell you that he could now earn 12*s.* a week at 10*d.* a yard, and that he never earned above 10*s.* a week at the old pit, when the work was at 1*s.* a yard?—He did not, he made no such statement; he did state that he had never done it at 1*s.* a yard, but William Gibbs had.

8221. Did he state that a man of the name of Lancaster had done it at 1*s.* a yard?—I do not remember; I have no account but of William Gibbs.

8222. But he told you that, at the same work, and in the same pit, William Gibbs was paid 1*s.* a yard?—He did.

8223. He did not state that the work was of entirely a different description and a different pit?—He did not.

8224. And that 12*s.* could be earned at the pit where the price was 10*d.* a yard, and only 10*s.* a week where the price was 1*s.* a yard?—He did not: "John Parkinson is a thresher, in the parish of Maulden; he has 1*s.* a quarter of eight bushels for threshing oats; four years ago he had 1*s.* 4*d.*; 8*d.* a load of five bushels for threshing beans; had four years back 1*s.*; 1*s.* 7*d.* a load of five bushels for threshing wheat, had then 2*s.*; used to count nine trusses of straw a day's work, now counts 11; is quite sure that this system is general in the parish of Maulden." This statement was taken in the presence of his master, who confirmed it. "Joseph Ashby is a labourer, and is threshing at 1*s.* 8*d.* a load; he used to have 2*s.* 6*d.* four years ago; had 2*s.* for the same work that he has now 1*s.* 8*d.* for; says the men dare not complain now, and then the

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masters say they are more contented; when he had 2*s.* a load for threshing, he bought a load of tail wheat at 1*l.* 5*s.*; now he has 1*s.* 8*d.*, and must give 1*l.* 18*s.* for a load."

8225. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did he explain why the labourers durst not complain now?—Because if they did they would be turned away, and would not get another job.

8226. *Chairman.*] Under any state of things, if the labourers were discontented and dissatisfied, and made complaints to the masters, would it not be very natural that the masters should try to find other labourers?—If they had no just cause for complaint; if the complaint was unjust, I think the master would be perfectly justified in so doing; but when the complaints are just, is another thing.

8227. Must not the master be, in some degree, a judge of whether the complaint is just or not?—I think he should; but he is not always perfect.

8228. Mr. *Fielden.*] Does the scarcity of work and the dread of having to come to the workhouse operate to induce them to accept lower wages than they otherwise would do?—It does; and I am prepared to give an explanation of that; six married men were working for Mr. Musgrave at 1*s.* a day; their names were, Robert Cox, William Cox, William Harris, John Cox, James Hyde, and Joseph Denton; he told them if they chose they might come at 1*s.* a day; they did so; they had no other course to take; either do that or starve.

8229. *Chairman.*] Had they also an opportunity of going into the workhouse?—Yes, but the workhouse is not a place for them to like to go into.

8230. What meaning do you attach to the word "starve"?—Having no victuals.

8231. If they have no victuals, how do they live?—That is a question I before said they could not answer themselves; but they would suffer any privations.

8232. By starving, you mean suffering considerable privations?—I mean not a sufficiency of provisions; I do not mean having nothing at all.

8233. Mr. *Barneby.*] If they had been sent into the workhouse, would they not have had a sufficiency of victuals there?—No.

8234. How do you mean that they would not have had a sufficiency of victuals; you are of opinion they have not a sufficiency of victuals in the workhouse?—I never saw a person who has been in the workhouse who has said that they had a sufficiency.

8235. What is your own opinion?—My opinion is that they have not enough.

8236. *Chairman.*] Are you aware, when you say that they had not a sufficiency of victuals in the workhouse, what is the dietary in one of the largest parishes in this town, which has been tried many years, and found perfectly to answer, namely, St. George's, Hanover-square?—I am not.

8237. Are you aware that the dietary of the Ampthill workhouse is very nearly the same as that of St. George's, Hanover-square?—I am not acquainted with what St. George's is at all.

8238. In what respect do you think the dietary insufficient of the Ampthill workhouse?—I think they have not a sufficiency of bread.

8239. That being the case, what would you say if you found that the Ampthill dietary, as compared with the dietary which I have just alluded to, and which has been tried successfully for many years in the metropolis, gives four ounces more of bread than St. George's?—I should think the allowance in St. George's was very scanty, if it was four ounces less than the Ampthill.

8240. Mr. *Hodges.*] With regard to those six men who were employed by Mr. Musgrave, at 1*s.* a day, do you happen to know at what work they were employed?—Labouring work on the farm, I believe; twitching is the term they give it.

8241. Is that the common sort of work in that part of the country?—It is.

8242. Do you happen to know whether they were employed along with other men upon that farm?—There were other men employed upon the farm at 1*s.* 6*d.* a day; but whether employed in the same field or not, I am not prepared to say.

8243. Do you know whether any men were employed upon that sort of work at higher wages than 1*s.* a day?—I do not know at what work they were employed; I know other labourers beside those six were receiving 1*s.* 6*d.* a day; but whether they were employed on the same sort of work, I am not prepared to say.

8244. Do

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8244. Do you happen to know whether if that work had not been taken by those men at 1*s.* a day, it was so necessary, that labourers must have been engaged to do it at a higher rate of wages?—I should think that it was necessary work; but I am not able to say whether it would have been neglected or would have been done if they had refused to do it at 1*s.* a day.

8245. Mr. *Fielden.*] There is a question 7892, relative to task-work, "Will you state to the Committee what you have heard as to the wages paid for task-work?" and your answer was, "The price of task-work, as far as I have been able to collect it, is, for threshing, from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* per load of five bushels, in 1834; four years ago the price would have been from 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.*;" have you any additional observations to make in answer to that question?—I have the names of some farmers who have confirmed the statement which I had before made: "Mr. Webb is a farmer in Marston, and is quite sure that wages have been much reduced in the last four years; by task-work he used to give 2*s.* a load of five bushels for threshing, he now gives 1*s.* 8*d.*, and states that he gives the same as his neighbours; he now gives 8*d.* a load for threshing beans; he used to give 1*s.*; Mr. Hopkins, of Westoning, says that he employs some men; he says work is done for much less than it used to be; he can now let his jobs for less money, and the men are much more glad to get it; Mr. Read says" (it was his statement which I put in when I said that the statement of the labourer had been taken in the presence of the master), but he gives me some more information of draining; "Mr. Read is a farmer, and says that he has some men draining for him at the present time at 3*s.* 6*d.* a score of 20 poles;" that is the manner they reckon it there; "four years ago he must have given 4*s.* 6*d.* for the same work."

8246. That testimony comes from farmers who employ the labourers upon the land?—It does.

8247. Are you satisfied that the information, which appeared to be somewhat doubted upon your former examination, is correct?—I am quite sure that it is correct; take it in the general, there may be exceptions, there may be individuals who do give rather more wages than others; but take it in the general, I am quite sure that it is correct.

8248. Mr. *Freshfield.*] The inquiry you made was from the farmers; did you follow up the inquiry to any particular labourer who had worked at those lower rates of task-work?—I did; and in one of those instances in which I stated, what he had, in the instance of Parkinson, he states now that he used to consider a day's work nine trusses, now he considers a day's work 11 trusses, but he could have earned 1*s.* a week more than he does now, though he puts 11 trusses instead of nine as a day's work.

8249. Did you understand that the work was overworking him, or that he did now a fair day's work?—I am not able to speak to that, but all the labourers whom I have conversed with upon it, and in whom I can place reliance, state that they could earn 2*s.* a week by task-work more than by the day, but now they cannot earn more than 1*s.* a week.

8250. Does that prove more than that the farmer had discovered a mode of procuring a fair proportion of labour for the money he paid for it?—I cannot answer that.

8251. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is it not possible, by placing the labourer in needy circumstances, to exact a larger day's work than ought reasonably to be required?—Certainly, and those men are compelled, through the situations in which they are placed, to do more work for the money than they used to do; I before stated that I do not understand how much labour an agricultural labourer should perform, and I do not wish to answer questions that I do not understand.

8252. The question 7142 refers to George Cox; do you wish to make any statement relative to George Cox, in consequence of your inquiries during the Recess?—I stated to the Committee, that when that family went out of the workhouse, the youngest child was taken out naked, with the exception of having a petticoat of the eldest sister taken off and put round it. I was told in the Committee-room that I was most grossly deceived; I have seen the party; the party is again in the workhouse, and I am not deceived, and I have not deceived the Committee. The truth was, that the child was taken out, as I have stated, notwithstanding what was said to the contrary in the Committee-room.

8253. George Cox was a man who bore a good character?—I put in a character which had been given to him, which gave him an excellent character; and

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I have made other inquiries, and I find that that character is borne out, that he deserves the character which is there stated.

8254. And notwithstanding that character, is he now, from sheer necessity, compelled to accept the workhouse, and now in there?—He is.

8255. Mr. *Freshfield.*] In this case of Cox's, have you taken any means of ascertaining what his situation was immediately before his going to the workhouse?—I think I stated at the time that he had been out of work; and about the last Easter, a year ago, he went into the workhouse, and remained a considerable time.

8256. You do not know his state immediately before his going into the workhouse?—He was living at the time, before he went into the workhouse, in a house without any flooring, without any windows either up-stairs or down.

8257. Do you know of any means being taken by him to endeavour to get employment immediately before he went into the workhouse?—After he came out of the workhouse the last time, which was at the time that he was living in this house in the manner which I describe, he did get work; but his health is gone; he has been living in barns between four and five months up to November, in consequence of his house being broken up through being in the workhouse, and his health is not good, and he is not able now to do a good day's work.

8258. Then, the state of his health is one of the leading circumstances which render it necessary for him to receive workhouse relief?—That and not having work; he tried to get work, and did get work; whether he would have been able to keep his work or not, I am not able to say, provided he had been a stout man; but having lived the life which I have stated, with a family, it is not much wonder if is health is bad.

8259. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you reason to think that his health has been injured in consequence of his suffering, from want of work, and from privations consequent upon want of work and of wages?—I have, and do believe it.

8260. There was a question put by the Chairman, 7160, "Does it appear that Richard Lack entered the house on the 11th of December 1837 and left it on the 3d of March 1838?" your answer was, "He states that he had been four months; that would be about the time; they are not very correct with dates." Have you any observations which you wish to make on this case of Thomas Lack?—I have a word or two that I would say on that subject; in stating the case of Lack and Cox, and two or three of that description, I was calling the attention of the Committee to this, that those people were destitute of homes when they had been once in the workhouse; it was stated, in answer to my observation of the children not knowing their parents, or not being able to remember their father, that those children met their parents twice a day at family prayers; I took very particular pains to inquire into the truth of that statement, and I found that Lack had been in the workhouse three weeks at the time they were in; family prayer was not used collectively, together, that is, all in one room; that up to a certain time, the 24th of January, family prayer had been performed in separate places, so that the people had not assembled together at the time to which I alluded.

8261. *Chairman.*] Did you make that allusion to family prayer on the former occasion?—It was stated that they met together in family prayers, so that they did see one another twice a day.

8262. How long was the man in the house?—Between three and four months.

8263. During that time you said that the children had forgotten their parents, and then you qualified that by saying that they had forgotten their father, and that was afterwards confined to the two youngest, as the eldest was four years and a half old, and the next was two years and a half old; do you think a child two years and a half old would forget its father at the end of two months?—I think it is possible, with his workhouse dress on.

8264. Do you undertake to say that Lack did not see his family during the whole period of his being in the workhouse?—No, I do not; I mean to say, that when he saw them they were in the infirmary, they were sick, but they had been in the house three weeks before they had been in the infirmary.

8265. Is this true, that the children had the measles while they were in the workhouse?—Yes.

8266. Was not that the reason for their being kept separately from the others?—Certainly.

8267. Therefore, is there any grievance in their being kept separately during the time they had infectious complaints?—Not if they had infectious complaints, and

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and other children were there; but the grievance is, that they are separated, whether they have an infectious complaint or not.

8268. Do you undertake to say, that though there is a classification in the workhouses, members of the same family, upon making application to the master of the workhouse, may not see each other at proper times?—They may, sometimes.

8269. If that is the case, and if there is permission given by the master of the workhouse, and by the regulations under which the workhouse is governed, for members of a family to see each other upon making an application at proper times, the separation is not such as to lead members of a family to forget each other?—But they do not often ask to see them; for this reason, while they are there they do not wish to give any unnecessary trouble, and they are very much afraid, a great many of them, I am speaking of those of good character, such as Lack; those men of good character do not wish to give unnecessary trouble; besides, when they do wish to see each other, somebody stands over them the whole of the time, like a prisoner in a gaol, so that they can merely look at each other; on that account they are not nearly so anxious to see each other as they would otherwise be if they could speak to each other.

8270. When you say that somebody stands over them, so that they can merely look at each other, you mean, that the different members of the family see each other in the presence of some third party?—I do.

8271. The presence of that third party does not interfere with their speaking with each other, or holding any private communication that they might wish?—Certainly.

8272. Would it prevent a man who wished to say any thing to his wife that he did not wish to be overheard from saying it?—It would.

8273. Supposing the master of a workhouse, or any other person, to be in the room, would it prevent the husband from saying any thing to the wife?—My information is, that they cannot speak to one another without being heard in any thing they say; that is my information, and from all the parties that I have asked upon that subject.

8274. This is the statement which I have with regard to Thomas Lack: he states, "That the separation from his children whilst he was in the workhouse was not by him felt as a grievance; he was never refused permission by the master or matron to see his children when he asked, but once, and that was when he had two of them ill of the measles, and then the matron stated that he had better not go to them, for fear of spreading the infection to other parts of the family; he often went to see them. (Signed) Thomas Lack." If that statement, which appears to be signed by the man in question, is a true statement, do you think he had any reasonable ground of complaint?—If that statement is true, and I have no doubt of it, and he knew what he was signing, then I say the complaints which are made by the wife to me are not justly founded; I have another word to say concerning Thomas Lack; it was stated that Thomas Lack had a sum of money lent to him, and that for his good conduct he had had a shilling or two given to him privately, and I was very happy to hear that he had borne such a character; I took upon me to call last Tuesday at his house to see him; Tuesday is rather early in the week; I found him in not so good a situation as I should have imagined; I brought the whole of the provisions that Thomas Lack had for his family to live upon when I went into the house on Tuesday morning; that was the whole of the allowance they had to live upon for the week; [*exhibiting the same*] four of those children are sick, and have been since they came out of the workhouse, and this man can have no relief in this situation only by going into the workhouse again.

8275. Is Lack employed?—He is.

8276. What are his wages?—Nine shillings.

8277. Is his wife doing any thing?—She was not, with four sick children.

8278. Were any of the children doing any thing?—The eldest child, that had been making lace, was sick and in bed.

8279. Were the other children doing any thing?—They were not.

8280. Were all the children incapacitated from earning by sickness?—I could not find that any were earning any thing when I was there.

8281. Supposing that to be the case, that Thomas Lack was able to work, and his wife unable to work, from having to attend to four children who were ill, and that those were unable themselves to work, do you believe that if that statement

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were made to the board of guardians at Ampthill, and appeared to be true, they would refuse to give that man out-door relief?—I do, for this reason, that a case of a similar nature to that was taken before them last Thursday, and was refused relief.

8282. To what case do you allude?—It is one that I never named.

8283. You are aware that there is nothing in the rules of the Commissioners as applicable to the Ampthill Union which would preclude them from giving relief in such cases?—I am aware that the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union could, if they thought proper, give out-door relief; that the withholding of that does not belong to the Commissioners, but to the board itself; let us not put more upon the Commissioners than belongs to them.

8284. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do I understand by that, that you are aware that the peremptory rule has not been issued by the Commissioners?—I mean by that, that the peremptory rule, withholding out-door relief to the able-bodied, has not been issued to the Ampthill Union. This is the case of Samuel Odell; this Samuel Odell is a man that has been a good deal out of work, and in consequence of being out of work, has gone poaching, and has been committed to prison, I think twice, for poaching; I do not set up this man as being a man of good character; I state to the Committee what I know; but he is not a man that gets drunk, and is never known to pay for a pint of beer; this I had in the presence of two farmers. When speaking to him, he said, "If I had work, I should never have gone a poaching; it was want of work that drove me to it." He is 34 years of age, has a wife and four children, the oldest is nine, and the youngest was born last Tuesday, yesterday week. In consequence of being out of work, and having been out of work for some time, he made application last Thursday to the board.

8285. What did he state to the board?—He stated that he had no work, and that his wife was confined, and that she had nothing to take; their condition was, that she had nothing but water-gruel, with two exceptions; she had a half-penny worth of milk, and made gruel twice out of it, but had nothing with it; when I saw them on the Thursday, she had no fire and no food of any description in the house; I took great pains to inquire, to ascertain; and this man had been to the board on that day; he was just come back from the board when I saw him; and the answer he received at the board was, he might come and bring his wife into the workhouse; she had been confined 40 hours.

8286. The board proposed to remove her?—Yes, and on this he objected to go into the workhouse, and then he was told he might do as he could; that is my statement; if it is wrong I give my authority, and I state this to show that in cases of emergency, if a man is able-bodied, whatever the circumstances are, they do not give him out-door relief.

8287. *Chairman.*] Are you quite sure that that was the answer given to this man?—I am quite sure that he made that statement in the presence of me, and of a dozen other people, who were all present at the same time; I took the words as he uttered them.

8288. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you any other distressing cases that have come within your notice during the last fortnight while you have been down at Ampthill; do you remember any person of the name of Stevens?—I do know a person of the name of Stevens, but I have nothing particular that I wish to state on that case; I saw on Thursday several applications that were made to the board, which were cases of extreme distress, and so much were some of the members of the board satisfied that they were cases of distress, that I know that they relieved them out of their own pockets sooner than they would admit the principle of giving them any out-door relief.

8289. Did you meet with any case at Greenfield?—Yes, the case is William Virgin; this man made application to the board.

8290. What parish does this man belong to?—Pulloxhill, one of the parishes in the union; this man has been out of work a good deal, and the wife has worked very hard at plaiting, and has contrived to eke out a living in that way; she is now confined to her bed, and it is said to be an inflammation of the breast; he applied to the board, but they would give him no relief, and last Friday he went out to beg some bread; I saw him come in with two pieces of loaf that he had been out to beg of the neighbours; he had applied to the board, and they could not do any thing for him; they ordered him a doctor.

8291. *Chairman.*] What was his application for?—For relief for his wife and himself, and his family, so I understood.

8292. What

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8292. What does his family consist of?—A wife and two children, the one three and the other one year old.

8293. What was the answer?—They could not do any thing for him; they gave him an order on the Wednesday for the doctor to attend her; on Friday at two o'clock he had never been to see her; I was in the house, and he had never been then.

8294. If the doctor had gone, and if he had ordered any thing that he thought necessary for the relief of the woman, would that order have been complied with?—Certainly; I do not find any fault with their giving orders for the doctor; the thing is, that she is attacked with an inflammation, and the doctor never attends.

8295. What is the name of the doctor?—Doctor Hamilton; "he applied to the board yesterday, and was told he might go into the house and bring the two children with him, and leave her at home;" now, according as I can judge from seeing persons sick, I should think, without some help, she could not live any great while.

8296. Mr. *Fielden.*] And the answer to him, as you have been informed, was, that he might go into the house with his children, and leave his wife in that state?—That was what he stated in the presence of me and three or four other persons at the time, his neighbours.

8297. *Chairman.*] Was the man unable to get work?—He was; he had been searching for work, and when he could not get work, he asked for bread.

8298. Mr. *Fielden.*] Were there females in the house who were in great distress, in consequence of the suffering of this woman?—There were, it was acute inflammation I believe; she was suffering acute pain.

8299. And you witnessed it?—I was in the house at the time.

8300. Thomas Lack, whom you have before spoken of, bears a good character as well as George Cox?—Yes, he did.

8301. And Cox is now in the workhouse, and Lack is suffering in the state which you have described?—Both of them; they are both of them men with families.

8302. In answer to a question put to Mr. Gulson, on the second day of his examination, question 442, "Suppose in a workhouse you have dissolute and idle paupers, men of bad character, drunkards, and supposing also you have a number of men of good character who are not able to procure work, how would those men be situated with respect to the others?" Mr. Gulson's answer was, "I cannot suppose that, because men of good character do not come into the workhouses." What observation have you to make upon that answer?—I think it is not true, for what I have met with in the Ampthill Union contradicts what Mr. Gulson says.

8303. Your experience with regard to George Cox and Thomas Lack, whom you have brought characters of before this Committee, and who have been obliged from necessity to accept of the workhouse, confirms you in the opinion that what Mr. Gulson says is not true?—Most certainly it does.

8304. With regard to Enoch Keep, whose case is mentioned in question 7057, some doubt was thrown, on the occasion of your examination, as to whether he had one or two cottages; have you made inquiry, with a view to ascertain the fact as regards that?—I have.

8305. Will you state to the Committee the result of your inquiry relative to the cottage owned by Enoch Keep?—I find that Enoch Keep had only one cottage, that the other cottage adjoining to his was built by his son about eight years after that which the father built, so that when it was stated that he had two cottages, my information is that their information was incorrect.

8306. *Chairman.*] You believe that both those cottages did not belong to Enoch Keep?—One belongs to his son Daniel, who built it, and now lives in it.

8307. What do you consider the value of Enoch Keep's cottage?—It would let for 1*s.* a week.

8308. Mr. *Fielden.*] Was that 1*s.* a week totally inadequate for Enoch Keep's maintenance?—Provided it could have been let, he could have let it for 1*s.*; but he had not power to let it; for if he had let it, he had no where to live, and as I stated, those houses are built upon a waste, and they cannot dispose of them.

8309. *Chairman.*] But they can let them, can they not?—I am not aware that they do.

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8310. Are you not aware that in the assessment which has been lately made of that parish, those cottages were one of them rated at 50*s.* a year, and the other at 40*s.*?—I am not aware of that.

8311. And that both were supposed to belong to Enoch Keep?—I am not aware.

8312. What other means had Enoch Keep of living?—He had worked up to within some few months of his death; but previous to his death he had been out of work; and I have been told since, on making more minute inquiries, that he was a man of very good appetite, more than ordinarily so; and when he could not get a sufficiency of victuals, it hurt his mind; but he had been a labouring man, and working, but for the last three or four months had had very little work to do.

8313. You stated that you did not know any instance of a widow in the Ampthill Union whose pay has been increased since the alteration of the law?—I stated that there had been some whose pay had been increased.

8314. In 7785, "Do you know whether there have been any widows with children who have had their allowance increased? I am not aware of any, to the best of my recollection at present; I do not mean to say that there is not one." And you had before stated, that widows with children had had their allowances reduced; are you aware that there have been many instances of widows who have had their allowances increased since the alteration of the law?—I am aware that the aged widows have had their pay increased, a good few.

8315. I find in the parish of Cranfield alone there are nine widows who have had their pay increased, and a considerable number of other persons have had their pay increased?—Yes, but there are also persons in Cranfield who have had their pay decreased.

8316. But the question was, as to whether there were any who had had their pay increased, and in Clophill parish four widows have had their pay increased; in Gravenhurst, five have had their pay increased; and so in Marston, and in Hawnes, and in Steppingley, there are various instances of increase of pay?—I am aware that there are of the aged widows, but I am not aware of any increase of the allowance of widows with children; but of the aged widows there has been an increase, because those widows that were 56 years of age and 57 years of age, are now getting three years worse, and as a matter of course there will be an increase of allowance to persons of that description; but there is also a decrease of some of them; and I found, on examining the returns, there were a great many who had their pay decreased; those who have had the most decrease are widows with children.

8317. Mr. *Miles.*] Would not that be naturally the case when the children were getting older?—That would be one cause; but another cause was, that they had offered a great many the factories, and if they would not take them, they would give them no relief.

8318. *Chairman.*] I observe the price of bread is stated in the books of the Ampthill Union in the first five months of 1834, at 6½*d.*, and in 1835 and 1836 at 5*d.*; therefore during the first year and a half or two years of the formation of the union, the price of bread was considerably lower than it had been before the introduction of the union; and the price of bread in 1837 is stated at 6¼*d.*, lower, therefore, even in 1837 than it had been in 1834?—The price of bread, as stated in the books of the Ampthill Union, cannot be taken as any criterion. I will show you why,—Woburn is seven miles from Ampthill; on the same date, if you will examine the returns where the price of bread is stated, you will find a variation of 1*d.* between the two.

8319. But as far as the people are concerned who live in the Ampthill Union, and who have to buy their bread there, the price of bread which prevails in that union is what affects their condition?—Yes; but I understood you to take the price of bread in the parish books, and the price of bread will vary 1*d.* in the same date.

8320. But you gave an opinion that the price of bread had increased in 1837, as compared with 1834?—The price of corn, but the price of bread in the parish books is no criterion.

8321. But to the people who live in the Ampthill Union, the price of bread which prevails in the Ampthill Union is what affects their condition?—Yes; but the price which the workhouse pay, and the price which the poor people pay in the towns is different.

8322. But

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8322. But admitting it to be different, if it is lower in one year in the workhouse than in another, it is also lower in the parishes?—Yes; but not in the same proportion; it is done by contract, and they overreach one another; I know how it is done.

8323. You say, in answer to question 7865, that the people are compelled to go into benefit societies in consequence of having no relief, and no doctors to go to?—That is the statement they make.

8324. When you say they have no doctor to go to, supposing a man were taken ill, and were by illness to be incapacitated from working, would he not receive medical assistance?—I am not aware of any case where he would, if he was not a pauper previously.

8325. Supposing him to have been a pauper previously?—Then he would.

8326. Those parties that you refer to had all been paupers previously, had they not?—I mean paupers at the time they are sick.

8327. Do you mean to say that if a man were taken ill, and were to be by illness rendered quite incapable of supporting his family, that he would not receive both out-door assistance and medical relief?—I am not aware of any case at the present that will apply, either that he would be refused relief; I have not a case in hand of that description; at the present, speaking of men, I do know two or three instances where relief has been given to him when he has been sick, though he was in a benefit club as well.

8328. Under the regulations of the Commissioners, that man, incapable of work, from sickness, is entitled to relief at the discretion of the board of guardians, unless they think that his circumstances are such as to enable him to provide for medical assistance himself?—I was not aware that that was the case.

8329. If a man was ill, and thereby was prevented from engaging in labour, and enlitled to relief on that account, he has no inducement to go into a benefit club to obtain relief during illness, because he could obtain it from the union?—But the working people are not aware that it is a regulation that they shall be entitled to relief if they are sick; the impression with them is generally that there is no relief for them under any circumstances, except the workhouse; but speaking of the wives being sick, I think I have stated several instances where the wives have been sick, and they have applied for relief, and it has not been given to them; but I am not aware of cases where the man has been sick, and it has been refused.

8330. The parish of Westoning was one of those which was in the most distressed condition before the formation of the union, was it not?—It was one of those in which the rates were higher than in any parish in the union.

8331. Are you aware that that parish was the only one in Bedfordshire where the allowance began at the first child, whether the man was employed or not?—I was not.

8332. If that were the case, would it not lead to a greater amount of pauperism than existed in any other parish?—It would be likely to do so.

8333. Are you aware that it was stated, with regard to Westoning before the Poor Law was introduced, by Mr. Pearce, the vicar of the parish, that the practice was for the people frequently to change their service, and that men caused themselves to be discharged from the service of their masters in order to be thrown upon the parish?—I am not aware of that; those are things that occurred longer back than I could attempt to procure any information of; I could not be made acquainted with those things.

8334. Supposing that to be the case, that the allowance began in Westoning much earlier than in the other parishes, and that men were in the habit of throwing themselves out of employment in order to obtain parish assistance, and that every able-bodied labourer received relief, whether out of employment or in employment, would not that have indicated a bad state of the law?—If every able-bodied labourer received relief, it would.

8335. I am reading extracts from the evidence given by the vicar of the parish long before the Poor Law was introduced, in which he describes the state of things existing in that parish?—I have no doubt of the truth of the statement; I have always said that that state of things was a state that ought not to exist in any country.

8336. Mr. *Fielden.*] Were not the labourers dissatisfied with that state of things before the passing of the new law?—The labourers, I am not aware how they

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they were situated before, but they have often told us that there was a great deal of confusion and rioting, and dissatisfaction, and so on; but I am quite certain that the labourers themselves do not want to revert back to the old practices of that sort.

8337. The practices under the old law of being dependent upon the parish, instead of living upon the fruit of their labour, was unsatisfactory to the labourers of that part of the country?—It was.

8338. And they are dissatisfied now because they cannot, out of the labour they give, obtain a sufficiency of food and shelter, which they think they are entitled to?—That is so.

8339. If the wages were raised so that they could live by their labour, would they not be better satisfied under the operation of the new law than under the old?—Certainly; if they had a sufficiency of wages to buy the common necessaries of life, I am sure they would be better satisfied.

8340. And has the information you have received been this, that they were getting worse in their circumstances, and more and more steeped in poverty every year?—That is invariably the case; I scarcely met with an exception.

APPENDIX.

Vide Twenty-fourth Report, p. 9. Ques. 7329.

A RETURN of the Number of ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN, whose Baptisms have been registered in each Year in the Parish of *Cranfield*, from the 1st of January 1830 to the present time (4th of April 1838.)

In the year	- -	1830	- - -	3	In the year	- -	1835	- - -	2
„ „	- -	1831	- - -	2	„ „	- -	1836	- - -	2
„ „	- -	1832	- - -	3	„ „	- -	1837	- - -	2
„ „	- -	1833	- - -	5	„ „	- -	1838	- - -	2
„ „	- -	1834	- - -	4					

James Beard, Rector.
Rd Gardner, Curate.

5 April 1838.

Veneris, 4° *die Maii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Barneby.	Lord Howick.
Mr. Chichester.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Eastcourt.	Mr. Lister.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Miles.
Sir T. Fremantle.	Mr. Walker.
Mr. Freshfield.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *James Turner*, again called in; and further Examined.

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8341. *Chairman.*] HAVE you any table to produce?—I have, of the 48 labourers.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix (A.)]

8342. What table is that which you hold in your hand?—A table of 30 labourers in constant work, both in the year 1834 (the year before the new law was introduced into the Ampthill Union), and the year 1837. I put this table in. [*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix (B.)] I will read the summary at the bottom. This table shows, that in 1834 the 30 husbandmen named in it, together with their wives and children, numbered 130 persons; and that in 1837, the husbandmen, together with their wives and children, numbered 149 persons. These men were in constant work (with the exception of one man who lost four weeks' work from sickness or some other cause), in both years, and received no parish relief in either year. The wages they received for their work amounted collectively, in 1834, to 725*l.* 6*s.* The wages of their wives and children collectively amounted, in 1834, to 176*l.* 2*s.* Total income in 1834, 901*l.* 8*s.* The out-goings for rent and fuel for these 130 persons in 1834 amounted to 192*l.* 4*s.*, leaving a net income applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries, of 709*l.* 4*s.* That is an average of 5*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* per head per annum, or 2*s.* 1*d.* per head per week, which 2*s.* 1*d.* would buy $23\frac{1}{10}$ pints of wheat at the average price of wheat, 46*s.* 2*d.* per quarter, in 1834. The wages these 30 men received from their work in 1837 amounted collectively to 721 *l.* 18*s.* The wages of their wives and children collectively amounted in 1837 to 202 *l.* 18 *s.* Total income 924 *l.* 16*s.* The out-goings for rent, fuel and benefit clubs in 1837 amounted to 193*l.* 14 *s.*, leaving a net income applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles, and other necessaries for these 149 persons, in 1837, of 731 *l.* 2*s.* That is 4*l.* 18 *s.* $1\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per head per annum, or 1*s.* $10\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per head per week, which 1*s.* $10\frac{1}{2}$ per head would purchase $17\frac{3}{10}$ pints of wheat at the average price of wheat, 55 *s.* 9 *d.* per quarter during the year 1837. The average income of these 30 independent labourers, in full employment, and of their wives and children, has been reduced from 2 *s.* 1*d.* per head per week in 1834, to 1 *s.* $10\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per head per week in 1837, or 10 per cent., and in the means their income gave them to purchase wheat from $23\frac{1}{10}$ pints in 1834 to $17\frac{3}{10}$ pints per head per week in 1837, their condition has, therefore, become much worse while the new Poor Law has been in operation.

8343. Is this from the parish of Westoning?—Yes, and this table shows further that there are ten of these labourers who with wives and children numbered 64 persons in 1834, and 78 persons in 1837 (above one-half the number of the persons included in the table), whose income, notwithstanding the increased number of workers, had fallen from an average of $2\frac{3}{4}$ (equal to $2\frac{7}{10}$ths pints of wheat) per head per day; in 1834 to $2\frac{1}{4}$ (equal to $1\frac{7}{10}$ths pints of wheat) per head

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per day in 1837, a reduction in these small means of 32 per cent.; in the latter year the lowest family, consisting of seven persons, had for subsistence only $1\frac{3}{4}d.$ (equal to $1\frac{3}{10}$ths pints of wheat), and the highest family, consisting of nine persons, only $2\frac{5}{8}d.$, equal to two pints of wheat per head per day.

8344. You say that there has been a considerable reduction of the means of those persons in the year 1837 as compared with the year 1834?—The reduction is from 2*s.* 1*d.* to 1*s.* $10\frac{1}{2}d.$, taking the whole number.

8345. Is that in their wages?—Not their wages only; the family has increased, so that the amount is to be divided amongst a larger number than it had to be before.

8346. Had their wages diminished in 1837 as compared with 1834?—Not much; the wages of the men, I think, had not decreased, with one or two exceptions; but the earnings of the family have in some instances decreased, because the employment at which the families are engaged, is not so well paid in 1837 as it was in 1834.

8347. What is the nature of that employment?—Chiefly straw-plaiting, and some lace-making.

8348. Three years having elapsed between 1834 and 1837, a number of children who could not work at straw-plaiting in 1834 must have been able to work at it in 1837?—Some of them would be, but, upon the whole, not in proportion to the amount of the reduction in the price.

8349. This is a lapse of three years; that interval of time must tell considerably upon the power of the family to earn something more at the straw-plaiting, must it not?—It would in some families; but in respect to those families in which the children were in 1834 six or seven years of age, where they had three children, when in 1837 they had come up to nine or ten, it would make very little difference in them, because the children of nine years of age will not be able to earn any thing, after the straws and schooling are paid for.

8350. Take the child of nine years of age in 1834, who would be 12 years old in 1837, would not that child be able to earn much more in 1837 than it would in 1834?—It would.

8351. Must there not, among the number of children whom you have enumerated as dependent upon those 30 labourers, be several children who would be able to earn more in 1837 than in 1834?—Yes; but then again, there must be some of that class who would not be able to earn so much in 1837 as in 1834; those who had arrived at something like maturity in their work in 1834, would not be able to earn as much in 1837 by a good deal, in consequence of the reduction of price.

8352. With respect to those who had arrived at the age of 15 or 16 in 1834, and who in the course of 1834 had passed out of the class of children whom the Poor Law considers dependent upon their parents, would you consider it just to include their earnings among the earnings of the family, or do you consider them as separate cases?—I have, in all instances, taken the whole family together; I did not ask the question whether they were considered by the law capable of providing for themselves, because I took the whole family and the number living in the house, whether above or below 16 years of age.

8353. But, independently of the law, and independently of the particular employment of straw-plaiting, with reference to general employment and the power of the children, should you not say generally, whatever may be the case with reference to those 30 labourers, that children of 16 years of age would be able to earn more than children of 13 years of age, and children of nineteen years of age more than children of 16, and children of twelve years of age more than children of nine years?—I cannot answer the whole question at once, because in some parts of the question I agree, and with another part I do not.

8354. State what you do not agree in?—Those that are 16 years of age I consider capable of doing as much at 16 as at 19.

8355. If you vary their employment and consider some of those children as boys and capable of agricultural labour, or as girls capable of taking service, would they not be more eligible for domestic service, or for agricultural service, at 19 than at 16 years of age?—Certainly, as far as regards those who go to service or to work for the farmer; in those instances, where they are boys, the wages have increased, which I have given an account of in those instances.

8356. Must there not be in this table several children in that situation?—There must, which I have given an account of; but when I say the whole of the

wages

wages have decreased, the whole amount of the earnings of the families has not decreased.

8357. But there is a decrease in the sum which each individual is entitled to, in consequence of its being distributed amongst a greater number?—Certainly.

8358. Had those persons, in 1834, all of them, or any of them, been in the receipt of parochial assistance?—I think, in the year 1834, the plan of giving parochial assistance to those who were in work was almost entirely abandoned; as far as I have been able to ascertain, it was an extreme case where they gave relief to those employed in 1834; the giving out-door relief to able-bodied men when in employment, that is, giving them head-money, had ceased before 1834.

8359. You consider that to have ceased before the new law was introduced?—I do.

8360. To what do you attribute the cessation of the custom of giving out-door relief to the able-bodied?—As far as my opinion goes, I have no proper facts to go upon, no facts upon which I could found an exact opinion, but the Commissioners, who collected information upon the subject of the poor laws, had been out in the country for some time before the law was introduced, and it was understood by the parish officers that it was intended that this law should do away with giving head-money to families.

8361. I ask you what ground the parish officers, in 1834, could have had for supposing that the particular law called the Poor Law Amendment Act, or any of the provisions of that law, would have been carried through the legislature?—I cannot answer that question.

8362. Do I understand you to say, that, in 1834, the practice of giving out-door relief in the parish of Westoning to able-bodied labourers in employment had ceased?—As far as I have been able to ascertain; I have examined the returns, and do not find the names of those labourers in the returns relating to Westoning. When we have inquired of the families concerning parochial relief, they used to tell us that; and in no parish but one have I been able to discover from the returns the names of able-bodied men receiving relief at that time.

8363. What parish was that which was an exception?—The parish of Millbrook.

8364. The return which is given to the Commissioners of Inquiry by the clergyman of the parish of Westoning, says that in that parish "every man received pay when he had one child, whether he was in employment or not;" in 1833, he states, "there is scarcely one able-bodied labourer in the employment of individuals, but what receives regular relief on account of his family; a married man and his wife, without any child, receives 5*s*. per week, if he be out of employment; for one child he is allowed 1 *s*., whether in or out of employment; for two children 2 *s*., and so on in proportion to the number of children under 10 years; above 10 years, each boy out of employment is allowed from 1 *s*. 6 *d*. to 3 *s*. 6 *d*.;" so that by that statement it appears that in the year 1833 the practice was to give almost universally in the parish of Westoning parish relief to the able-bodied?—I find in the returns from the parish of Westoning the amount which was received confirmed, as far as regards those who were out of employment; but with regard to those who were in employment, I cannot say one word.

8365. In point of fact, it appears that from your impression in 1834 the amount of relief in the parish of Westoning to the able-bodied labourers had very much diminished, and that that diminution had taken place by the resolution of the vestry, or whatever was the governing body at that time?—Whatever was the governing body, they did withhold that relief to a very great extent to those in employment.

8366. That had been done without the compulsion of any law?—Yes.

8367. Of their own accord?—Yes.

8368. Upon their own conviction of its propriety?—Yes.

8369. Mr. *Fielden*.] Have the men, embraced in this table of 30 labourers which you have put in, told you that they received no parish relief in either period?—They have.

8370 Have you examined the returns of Westoning to ascertain whether you could find any one of those 30 upon the parish books?—Certainly; when I embodied them in a table I had the returns with me, and compared them, and did not

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not find the names of those called able-bodied, and from that I presume that they received no relief.

8371. In the table you have put in, you state the sum which the labourers themselves received in 1834 to be, collectively, 725*l.* 6*s.*, and in 1837, to be 721 *l.* 18*s.*, showing merely a reduction in the wages of the labourers themselves of 3*l.* 8*s.*?—Yes.

8372. You further state that the whole income, including the incomes of their families with the labourers, was, in 1834, 901*l.* 8*s.*, and in 1837, 924*l.* 16*s.*, showing an increase in their means of 23*l.* 8*s.* in 1837, as compared with 1834?—That is derived from the increase of the earnings of the families.

8373. So that, notwithstanding the labourers have suffered a reduction of 3*l.* 8*s.*, the income of the labourers has been increased, from additional workers?—Yes, that is so.

8374. Have you reason to believe that the statements contained in that table are correct?—I believe they are, as far as it is possible to get at them. I took an exceeding deal of pains to get at them; I made all the inquiries that I could.

8375. Have you seen the men more than once, and questioned them as to the particulars contained in those tables?—I have, and I have been very careful to make it as correct as it is possible to be.

8376. And finding that the account given by them as to the sums they received from the parish corresponds with the statements in the parish books, you have no reason in your own mind to doubt the veracity of those men?—I have not any reason to doubt it, but if I should be wrong in any instance in the income or the expenditure, I should be most happy to be set right at any time, if any person will take the pains to get at the facts as I have done.

8377. I find in the table the name of Richard Pedder, who is stated to have been 23 years of age in 1834, and that his income was 1*s.* 9¼*d* per head per week, for his family to subsist on in 1834, and in 1837 only 1*s.* 0½*d.*?—You will find, I think, that Richard Pedder has five very small children, he has had a great increase in the number of his children, and that accounts for the great reduction of their means.

8378. His family is stated in this table to amount to four; that is, himself, his wife, and two children in 1834, and in 1837 his family is stated to amount to seven; that is an increase of three to his family in those years?—Yes, so that he has now himself, his wife and five children.

8379. What must be the state of that man with those limited means of living; are you able to state, from any thing you have seen of him during your sojourn in Ampthill?—I am quite sure, with those means of living, a weekly labourer receiving 9*s.* a week, even if he has constant work, and never loses a day, it must be a most scanty maintenance for a man and his wife and five children; the method of living is chiefly on bread and potatoes, they have scarcely ever any thing with them but salt, and I am quite sure that it will produce fatal consequences on the health of any man, who has to follow labouring work on a farm, and live in that way.

8380. I find that this man, in the year 1837, had 48 weeks' work; have you any idea what that reduction of four weeks during the year arises from?—I believe it was from sickness, but I am not quite certain; I know that I had made the table out for 52 weeks, and showed it him after it was made out, before I copied it, and then he stated that he had been off or sick four weeks.

8381. Supposing it to have been from sickness, can you have any surprise that this man should be sick, seeing the limited means he had of procuring sustenance for himself and his family?—I should not be at all surprised at any man being sick, doing labouring work and living in the manner that some of them do.

8382. What, in your opinion, must be the fate of this man, if he be left to his own resources, and continues to subsist upon the earnings which he is able to procure for his labour?—The fate of this man must be like that of many others, if he has a family to maintain at such low wages, that he must go into the workhouse, as he cannot support himself and family upon the wages I have named.

8383. You mentioned on a former day a man of the name of Cox, who had been driven to that extremity, and who bore an excellent character?—No doubt Pedder will be in the same situation; his health will be destroyed in the same way as Cox's has been; no question of it.

8384. Are there not many other labourers nearly similarly situated amongst those 10 which you have drawn the attention of the Committee to?—There are; those labourers are subsisting upon a small allowance, with four or five children, before the children are able to do any thing, their wages being 8*s.* or 9*s.* a week; it will produce the effect upon them which I have stated.

8385. Those 10 families, according to this table, show a number of persons amounting to more than one half of the number comprised in the table?—They do.

8386. And therefore one half, or more, of those families included in the table are suffering severe distress, and, without assistance, must follow the fate which you have described of Cox, and which you say is likely to be the fate of Pedder?—I am sure that it must come to that, if men must work, as they do, for those low wages, and have no other method of getting a living, that it must be fatal to them eventually.

8387. Had the means of obtaining relief from the parish been open to those labouring men, would many of them before now have made application, and have obtained relief?—Certainly they would, but they know that it is of no use to make application while they are in work and able-bodied; they never think of doing that now, because they know it is of no use, let their sufferings be ever so great.

8388. Then those men have suffered most severely by the operation of the Poor Law Act?—They have suffered, they do suffer, and they will suffer, if their wages are not advanced in proportion to the relief which has been taken from them, and which formerly would have been given to them; they have suffered in the degree that the wages have not advanced in the proportion that that relief has been taken away.

8389. There is one case of a person named Edward Armsden, a jobber, in this table; and I wish to draw your attention to it, for the purpose of seeing whether there may not be some mistake. You state him to have a wife and five children, in 1834, the eldest 19 and the youngest one, and you state the amount of his family's earnings as 10*l.* 8*s.* in 1834, and in 1837 you state that his family amounts to nine, that is, an increase of two, and that the earnings of his family are 10*l.* 8*s.* still; are you of opinion that that man's family's earnings must have been more than is here stated, unless some part of the family has been abstracted from him?—I think there must be an error there; when I looked over the table I stated that, for I find that the oldest, the young man, has been out of work for a considerable time in the year 1837, but I find he was for some time on the railway, and I was the more anxious to explain that, as I think in that instance there must be an error either on my part or on their part; I think not on mine, though I am not infallible against making an error.

8390. Would the error be, that the family ought to be stated as eight, in 1837, instead of nine?—I think this young man, being on the railway, should not be numbered in 1837, and that is where the error is.

8391. But if one is taken from the family it will not make any material alteration in the fact stated in this table?—The alteration that it would make is that it would divide the income of that family amongst eight instead of, as it is now, amongst nine, that is how I believe it should be done.

8392. With the exception of that one instance, are you of opinion, after all the inquiries you have made, and all the examinations you have had of those men, that this table is correct?—As far as I am able to judge, or as far as I am able to get at the facts.

8393. *Chairman.*] Have you any memorandum of the number of weeks' employment that Pedder had in 1834?—Fifty-two; he was in full employment.

8394. And in 1837 only 48 weeks?—He was sick, I believe.

8395. Do you know whether he obtained assistance from the parish during the time of his sickness?—I do not.

8396. When was he sick?—I do not know the time of the year.

8397. Do you know whether he applied for assistance?—I do not.

8398. Do you know, in fact, whether he was sick or not?—I do, from this, that when I made out the table for 52 weeks, I showed it to Pedder, and I have put a note; I must not call it 52, but 48, and I have every reason to believe that he was sick for those four weeks.

8399. You say that in 1834 relief to this description of labourer was not given?—As far as I have been able to ascertain, it was not.

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8400. How did they get on then in 1834, if relief was equally refused to them as it has since been?—They did not get on very well then, but this family was not in the situation in 1834 that it was in 1837, because there has been an increase of family since that time.

8401. But there would be families as numerous in 1834 as in 1837?—But if there were, I do not think, in such an instance as that, they would have given relief in 1834, but to that I am not able to speak clearly.

8402. You describe their condition to be very miserable?—It is, indeed.

8403. Do you describe Richard Pedder's sustenance to be principally bread and potatoes?—Yes.

8404. Both in 1834 and in 1837?—I allude more to the present time.

8405. Do you know whether he keeps a pig?—I do not; but allowing that he does keep a pig, there are some few labourers who are not in good circumstances, and who do keep a pig; but they do not keep the pig for themselves, and they do not eat it neither.

8406. But they keep a pig, if they do not keep it for the purpose of eating it, for the purpose of selling it?—Yes, they buy the pig on credit, and they buy the provisions for the pig on credit, and sell it after they have fatted it.

8407. Obtaining a profit?—Not much; the profit is the manure the pig makes to assist in the garden, so that they can get a better crop of potatoes.

8408. You believe that they do not eat the pigs, and do not keep them for any profit except that which arises from the manure which the pig makes, is that your belief?—It is; I have met with some who keep pigs, but not so many as used to do.

8409. You do not know whether Pedder keeps a pig or not?—I do not, he may keep one, for I have seen people as badly off as he is keep a pig.

8410. Do you not consider that the fact of their keeping a pig makes a material difference in their condition?—I think many keep them in the manner I have stated; they do not eat them; it cannot make much difference in their condition; I have never yet conversed with a labouring man, in the condition I have spoken of, who kept a pig and ate it.

8411. They must eat it or sell it at a profit?—They buy the pig on credit, and the provisions of the pig on credit, and when they have paid these two things out of it, it does not leave them much, but it gives them manure for their garden to provide a crop of potatoes.

8412. I should like to know more particularly with regard to the purchase of the provisions for the pig on credit; first of all, on what do they keep their pigs?—Barley and barley-meal, very often.

8413. Trace the pig from the time that it comes into the poor man's possession; upon what does he keep it?—That I am not exactly able to say, but in the first place those few who do have pigs get the pigs on credit.

8414. From whom does the labourer get his pig on credit?—I will show you; I have a note here: "William Bright is a dealer in pigs, lives in Ampthill, and has for many years sold them to the poor people on credit, and they have paid him for them when they have fatted them; but since the new law was passed, he has not sold one in ten of that description as he used to do before; is satisfied that they are so much worse off than they used to be."

8415. William Bright sells the pigs on credit, the poor people paying him when they are fattened; upon what do they feed their pigs?—In the former part of keeping pigs, as far as I am informed, this pig having assisted to produce manure for the potatoes, the pig is fed out of the small ones, and the barley-meal is got from the miller; and the miller makes the same statement to me.

8416. The pig is fed upon the potatoes which the manure of the last year has increased in amount?—Yes.

8417. Mr. *Freshfield.*] And small quantities of wash from the cottages?—That will not be of much use now.

8418. *Chairman.*] Contrasting the condition of the man in 1834 with his condition in 1837, do you believe that he had more means of keeping his pig in 1834 than he has now?—I do; and the fact is here, as I have stated, that Mr. Bright sold at that time ten times more than he does now.

8419. But I want to know the means of the poor man to keep his pig?—I have put in my table, that the condition of the labourers, as far as regards the purchase of the necessaries of life, is reduced in the rate of 33 per cent.; now take the whole number together, there may be some better than they were in 1834,

1834, and there are a great many much worse; there may be some better than they were before, but I have not found them yet; but when they are 33 per cent. worse off in 1837 than they were in 1834, it proves that they are not in so good a condition to keep a pig now.

8420. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Do you not know that the poor men consider the keeping a pig as a good saving bank, they suffering very little inconvenience in keeping a pig?—Those who keep a pig do think so, and I wish all the labourers had one and eat it themselves.

8421. Lord *Howick.*] I understood you to give your account of the circumstances of this man of the name of Pedder, as a person into whose situation you had inquired, and with which you were perfectly acquainted?—I have made the same inquiry into his situation as I have into all the other labourers of the parish; but out of the number, when I come to look over the table, it can scarcely be expected that I can have a perfect recollection of every circumstance in the case of every individual; this is one that I happened not to be able so thoroughly to describe as I could a great many.

8422. You described this person's circumstances, and what you considered to be his whole means of living?—I did.

8423. You say that he kept a pig principally for the sake of the manure which the pig afforded?—If he did keep one; but I do not know that he did keep one.

8424. Do you know whether he had any land to put that manure upon?—I do not know.

8425. Do you know whether he raised any potatoes?—I know that most of the poor people have a garden, and I presume he had.

8426. Do you know whether he had any allotment in addition?—No.

8427. Then you know nothing whatever of what his annual means of subsistence are?—I think I do know; I had the information from him and his wife, and I think I may fairly say that I know something about it; I stated at first that I put in my table upon the best information I could get, and that if I were wrong, the fault was not with me, but according to the best information I had I have put it in.

8428. Do you mean to state that you give a fair representation of the working man's means of subsistence, if you state the wages he receives, and not the means which he may possess of having potatoes and other produce from ground which may form a very large part of his living?—When I state the amount of his rent, I expect if he has land that he pays for that land, and I state the amount he is paying for that land.

8429. But though he pays for the land, it is to be presumed, if he has land, he derives some advantage from it?—Of course he does.

8430. Then, in bringing before the Committee an account of the means of subsistence of this labourer, was it not absolutely necessary, in order to give the Committee any means of judging what their means of subsistence were, that you should inquire what land he had, and what advantages he derived from that?—In those places where allotments of land are distributed I have been careful to do that; but the parish of Westoning is not a parish where there are allotments.

8431. Will you take upon yourself to say that this man, Pedder, had no allotment of land in addition to his garden?—I do not take upon myself to say so.

8432. Mr. *Miles.*] This tabular form that you put in is drawn up upon the best information you have been able to obtain from the respective labourers?—It is.

8433. In your examination, of the last day, you stated that you endeavoured to check that as much as possible, by making inquiries of their employers?—I did in several instances.

8434. In most of those instances have you made those inquiries?—In some of them I have, and in others I have not had an opportunity.

8435. What was your reason for not drawing out your table similarly in 1837 to that of 1834. In 1834 I find "a number of children living with their parents;" "the age of the eldest;" "the age of the youngest;" that is omitted in 1837?—I presumed that the child that was nine years of age in 1834 would be in 1837 twelve years of age; and I did not think there was any necessity for putting the ages of the children in a second time.

8436. I think I have understood from you, likewise, from several questions put by different members of the Committee, that, from the employment to which the children of the labourers in Bedfordshire are subject, as they get older the value of their work increases?—I stated that, but I stated in addition that the price of

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the work at which the children were employed in 1834 was much reduced in value in 1837; that is, that the lace or plait did not fetch nearly so good a price in the latter year as it did in the former.

8437. I will call your attention first of all to George King, who is here described as a shepherd; he has a wife and six children living, the eldest, in the year 1834, was 18, the youngest six; I find that the earnings of this family in the former year were 18*l.* 4*s.*, in the latter period only 15*l.* 12*s.*; were the whole of the number of children, who were resident in 1834 with the father, resident with him in 1837?—It appears that they are; I do not see that there is any change in the number of the family.

8438. Was the eldest a male or female?—I believe the elder children are girls.

8439. You state that, from the very best examination you have been able to make, you find that the earnings have deteriorated of those children, they all being plaiters or lace-makers, from 18*l.* 4*s.* in the former period to 15*l.* 12*s.*?—This is the description of the family that I before named; the price of their work is deteriorated so much that they cannot get so much money now as they could have done four years ago.

8440. Do you know whether George King has joined a benefit society lately?—I am not aware; I have no account that he has.

8441. Is Richard Pedder in a benefit society?—It does not say whether he is or not

8442. The next person I shall call your attention to is William Hyde, with a wife and five children, the eldest in 1834, seventeen; the youngest aged one; the earnings in 1834, 14*l.* 6*s.*; the earnings in 1837, 14*l.* 6*s.*?—That is according to the statement made to me; those girls are employed in plaiting, and they make less money now by their work than they did.

8443. I next call your attention to Edward Armsden, 41, a wife and five children; the earnings of the wife and children in 1834 are 10*l.* 8*s.*; the earnings in 1837, 10*l.* 8*s.* I next call your attention to Thomas Brinkley, a wife and seven children; the eldest sixteen, the youngest one; earnings in 1834, 15*l.* 12*s.*; earnings in 1837, 15*l.* 12. I next call your attention to Thomas Sharpe, aged 63, wife and two children; earnings of the family, 5*l.* 4*s.* in 1834; the earnings of the family, 5*l.* 4*s.* in 1837. Having given you those five cases, must it not have appeared very extraordinary to you that the earnings of those respective families were precisely the same in 1834, to a fraction, as they were in the year 1837?—My answer to that is, that I did ask them, "What can you make now per week by plaiting?" their answer was, "4*s.* or 5*s.*" They get according to the family; the answer would be, "We cannot make more than 4*s.* a week or 5*s.* a week, but we could have made the same three years ago, though we had a plaiter less three years back, as we make now;" then I put down 4*s.* a week, as the income of that family from plaiting, which will amount to 10*l.* 8*s.* a year.

8444. Though they had a plaiter more, and though, as you admit, a person 16 years of age could do more plaiting than a person 12 years of age?—When I say they had an addition of one, I am not aware whether those families that have been named had an addition of one or not, but I state that though they are grown up more than they were before, and though there is an addition in the number, they could formerly make more money than they can now, because of the better price.

8445. Is it not a singular thing, that with this increase in the number of plaiters and the increase in the age, the earnings of five large families should come to precisely the same sum in the two years?—Not at all, because if they state that they could earn 4*s.* a week now by plaiting, and they state that they could have made 4*s.* before, I would have asked "How many plaiters have you now, or how many used you to have?" and if they state that their earnings are 4*s.* a week, it is upon their authority that I put in the earnings I have given.

8446. Is it then a calculation of what they are supposed to earn, and not a statement of their earnings?—It is a statement of what they have really earned, according to the best information I could get, and I do think that I have stated their earnings at a fair proportion, for if I must take the Commissioners' Report, they have taken upon them to report what the families earned, and stated much less than I have put it at.

8447. But still, evidently you are acquainted with figures, and does it not strike you as very extraordinary that they should amount to exactly the same sum,

sum, with not a fraction difference?—Not at all, because I put it in as what they earn per week. Mr. *James Turner.*

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8448. Lord *Howick.*] In the paper which you have given in, the column is headed "earnings of labourer's wife and children;" would not that imply, not what they may be supposed to earn at a certain rate during the year, but what they actually did earn, upon a calculation of their employment in several weeks?—It is impossible to get at the actual earnings; when they make their straw-plait, they sell it once or twice in the week, and they make what they can get at the year's end; it is morally impossible to get at the exact amount; I stated before, that I had got at it, to the best of my judgment, as nearly as I could.

8449. Then the heading of this column is fallacious, it is not the actual earnings of the wife and children, but the estimated earnings of the wife and children?—If you dispute that word I will not contend it, but what I say is, that it is as near as I could get at it.

8450. It is the nearest estimate you could form, but not an account of receipts?—It is impossible for that to be got at, under any circumstances.

8451. Therefore it will not show whether there is an increase of earnings in late years, from more constant employment, than formerly?—The families have constant work, those employed in plaiting or lace-making.

8452. But it will not show any variation in their receipts, from a greater or less amount of industry in different years?—It shows the amount that they get, as nearly as it is possible to get at it.

8453. It states what they calculate they get, taking one week with another, by straw-plaiting, but it does not show what they have actually earned in the different weeks in those years?—Because it is impossible to get at that data, and therefore I have not given that.

8454. You have found it practically impossible to get that information which this paper professes to give; you have not been able to get, from the actual receipts of the labourers, what their earnings were in those two years?—The table does not say the actual amount.

8455. Mr. *Miles.*] I must draw your attention to one more labourer, which is Thomas Sharpe, 63; he is stated to have two children in 1834, one of those children 24 years, the other 20 years of age; their earnings in 1834 were 5 *l.* 4 *s.*, and I see their earnings in 1837 were the same; were those children men or women?—Daughters, one of them deaf and dumb, not able to do much work, and they calculate that they could earn about 4 *s.* a week with plaiting, as nearly as I could get it, and I put it in.

8456. Mr. *Chichester.*] Are they married?—No.

8457. Have they any children?—One of them has a child.

8458. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you know whether Sharpe is receiving relief?—I am not aware; he has 8 *s.* a week, earnings.

8459. Do you know whether his deaf and dumb daughter is receiving relief?—I am not aware.

8460. Did you make the inquiry?—I generally did make the inquiry.

8461. But this must have struck you as rather an extraordinary case; did you in this particular instance make the inquiry?—It does not strike my mind now, but I should almost be sure that they were not receiving parochial relief.

8462. *Chairman.*] They do not belong to the Ampthill Union?—No.

8463. Did Richard Pedder receive relief before the union?—I am not aware.

8464. In the statement that you gave for 1834, do you include parochial relief?—I do not.

8465. Then you suppose that Richard Pedder was at work for 52 weeks in 1834?—That is my information.

8466. And during that time you do not know whether he received parochial relief?—I do not; I stated they had not received relief.

8467. If it should appear that in 1834, before the date of the union, Richard Pedder received 7 *s.* and 6 *s.* 6 *d.* and 5 *s.*, and then in the sixth month 7 *s.* was ordered till the end of the year, would that be consistent with the statement which he made to you?—It would not; my information is, that he has a wife and five children, the oldest seven, the youngest under one; has constant work, and has had for five years; now it would be an unusual thing to give a man that money with constant work.

8468. But you are aware that the practice was, in the parish of Westoning, to

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give relief when they had constant work?—Not at that time; the practice had become nearly abolished at that time.

8469. I find that by the parish book of Westoning, in the year preceding the formation of the union, 1834–5, Richard Pedder received the amount of 7*s.* to the end of the year; the next entry is, "Received 7*s.* for nine weeks," before the formation of the union, and upon the formation of the union he appears to have received 4*s.*, till it was discontinued; and that amount varies till it comes to 7*s.* 6*d.* in the eighth month, and then it is altogether discontinued?—I should think it very improbable to be the same man.

8470. Did Peter Chance state to you that he received parish relief in the year 1834?—No, he said that he was in constant work.

8471. Should you have inferred from his statement to you that he was at the time receiving parish relief?—No, I should not.

8472. If I find an entry in the parish book of Westoning in the year 1834 and 1835, that Peter Chance received 4*s.*, 6*s.*, 1*s.*, 5*s.*, 4*s.* and 6*s.* and 6*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.* 3*d.* and 3*s.* 3*d.* and 2*s.* 2*d.* and 3*s.* 3*d.* and 4*s.* 4*d.* and 3*s.* 3*d.* in the year 1834, is the statement made to you accurate?—If I had been aware that Peter Chance had received that money, he would have been put in the other table of 48 labourers; but believing that he was in constant work, as he stated, I put him into this table.

8473. If this entry is correct, and it applies to Peter Chance, of whom you have spoken, is the Committee to understand that that is not a correct statement of his circumstances?—It is not correct, for he has not been in constant work as long as he has stated.

8474. With respect to George King, did he state that in the year before the formation of the union he had received relief from the parish?—He did not; he stated that he has been in constant work for 26 years, and did not receive relief so late as that.

8475. There are two entries, one of 8*s.* and the other 3*s.* 3*d.* with respect to George King; so far those sums of money ought to have been inserted in the return of his income?—That 8*s.* and 3*s.* ought to have been put into his income in 1834, and would have been if I had been aware of it; in the case of Pedder and Peter Chance, those two, if they had not stated that they had been in full work, would have been put in the list of 48.

8476. So far as the statement of Peter Chance, and of one or two other labourers, do not correspond with the entries in the parish books, their statements are inaccurate?—They are.

8477. Mr. *Miles.*] On the Committee pointing out these instances to you, should you not be justified in looking with suspicion upon this as an accurate table?—I stated that it was as accurate as I could make it.

8478. But, from what has come out, can this be looked upon as an accurate table?—I admit that, and I should be very sorry to attempt to lay any thing before this Committee that was not correct.

8479. *Chairman.*] If those people, some of them in the year 1834, and others in the year 1837, are in the state of distress which you describe, how would you propose to improve their condition?—By giving to every labourer from half an acre to an acre of land.

8480. Will you explain what you mean by giving?—That it should be recommended to the land-owners to let every labourer have half an acre or an acre of land upon reasonable terms, such terms as he lets his land for generally, with a fair addition for the trouble of collecting the rents, and what expense it may be.

8481. You think that the effect of allowing labourers to have that quantity of land which you have mentioned would be materially to improve their condition?—I am certain it would.

8482. Do not you think that it would have the effect of increasing the good habits and industry of the labourers?—I am certain of it.

8483. Do you not think that the consequence of letting this quantity of land upon those terms has the effect of preventing the families of the labourers from loitering away a great deal of time in idleness, and accustoms them to habits of industry?—I am certain it would.

8484. Do not you think that it is a great resource to the labourer if he is thrown out of work, or if, working at task-work, he is able to accomplish his work in a limited number of hours, that during the time he is out of work, or unemployed in task-work, he should have an opportunity of employing himself upon

upon land of this description?—Yes; and if he had this land, it would produce potatoes and other vegetables. The kind of cultivation I should recommend would be half of the land for potatoes and the other for corn; he would then have something to fall back upon in severe weather; because as to talking of their saving money, it is out of the question. Mr. *James Turner.* 4 May 1838.

8485. Do not you think he would be more in a condition of saving money, which might be deposited in benefit societies or savings banks, if he had the advantage of this land?—The saving of money I would not interfere with at all; but he would be able to save for himself, in times of necessity, a quantity of bread and of potatoes, and would not be driven to ask relief from a parish, or in any way.

8486. Do not you think the possessing of land in that way would be likely to give the labourers a feeling of honest independence?—I am sure of it, and I have seen it to be the case in Bedfordshire; I held those opinions before I went down, but they were confirmed while I was there.

8487. Have you seen in Bedfordshire instances in which land has been so given?—I have, and seen the good effects of it, and heard the people who had the land thank God, with tears in their eyes, that they had a bit of land, over and over again.

8488. Have you observed a great difference in the situation of those labourers who have that advantage as compared with others who have not that advantage?—I could have told as soon as I entered a house that they had land; in the parish of Flitton, which belongs nearly all to Earl de Grey, whether the whole of it belongs to him or not, I do not know, but eight years ago he apportioned out some land, a farm, for the benefit of the poor in this way; before that time I am informed, on very good authority, that parish was about as badly managed as any in the neighbourhood; I am told it was as badly managed as Westoning; eight years ago this farm was divided amongst the labourers in small proportions, from half an acre as far as four acres; and when they did do so, the rates were reduced before the new Poor Law was passed, from 16*s.* to 8*s.*, without the interference of the law at all.

8489. Do you attribute that reduction to the practice of giving land?—The reduction I attribute to the giving of land alone.

8490. Do you think, under the circumstances, they were able to make this reduction of rates, accompanied with this advance of land, without materially impairing the means of the labourers' living?—The labourers were better off; they all made that statement.

8491. In contemplating any provision by which the condition of the labourer should be improved, you would rather have recourse to this practice of allotment than to the old practice of parish relief, given as it formerly was in that district?—Much rather; the working people felt the benefit of it; as I stated, when I went into the houses, I could tell in a moment which had a portion of land; there was a number of faggots about their door, and there would be flour in their house; their houses looked so different from what the others did; and the same system had been adopted in another parish or two that I did not visit, not belonging to the Ampthill Union; and the steward, upon being remonstrated with about giving those people land who had no character, said, "I admit they have not a character, but I intend to give them one;" so that they took this land and divided it amongst them indiscriminately, not asking whether they were of good character or not; and I am informed, on good authority, that only one has lost his land through misconduct, that at the time of the last audit, 15*l.* of rents were not owing amongst the whole of those labourers who had those allotments.

8492. You are not speaking of gardens, but of allotments of land to the extent of from half an acre to an acre?—Yes, in no instance would I go beyond an acre, for I would not make those labourers into farmers, for I want them to be labourers, and good labourers.

8493. Have you ever found that the labourer who possesses the advantage of this allotment of land is in any respect a worse labourer or less disposed to work for the farmers of the neighbourhood?—No, but the reverse; there is so much better a feeling between them; there is that union between the labourers and the farmers which ought to exist, and which I am sorry to say does not exist, and which, if not changed, will produce fatal effects; I have seen them with tears in their eyes, more than once or twice, thank God that they had a bit of land, or they must have been in the workhouse, had it not been for this land.

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8494. Mr. *Liddell.*] Is this land cultivated with plough or with spade husbandry?—This which I allude to is cultivated with the plough, but my plan would be that it should all be cultivated by the spade.

8495. Mr. *Estcourt.*] In this parish belonging to Lord de Grey, do you know the size of the allotments?—From a quarter of an acre, some few at a quarter to half an acre, but some few have as much as four acres.

8496. *Chairman.*] With reference to this particular parish, independently of those allotments which you have spoken of, and which produced those consequences, was not Lord de Grey building a large house, and thereby giving much greater employment to the labourers than was usually the case?—This system of allotment was introduced eight years ago; the building the house was about three years ago; the effect of that in Flitton was not so much as in Selsoe, for the building of the house was in Selsoe.

8497. Mr. *Liddell.*] Are you aware of the amount of rent that was paid for this land?—I think in no instance more than 35 *s.*; from a pound to 35*s.* an acre.

8498. Is that the ordinary price of land of corresponding quality in the neighbourhood?—The land is let at rather a higher price than it is let at to the farmers, but not much more than will cover the extra expense of collecting.

8499. *Chairman.*] Did not you find in those cases where the land let in those allotments was a little dearer than the same description of land that was let to the farmers, that the rates and tithes were paid by the landlord or by the farmer from whose farm the land was taken, so as to make the sum about the same?—I am not quite clear about that.

8500. Mr. *Liddell.*] Admitting the advantages which will accrue to the labourers from such a distribution of the land, on the part of a benevolent landlord, would there not be a danger, on the part of a grasping landlord, of his asking a greater amount of rent than the labourers could pay, and of the demand for land on the part of the labourers, enabling him to do so with success?—He might, and I admit that it is a very narrow path; because I know instances where landlords let at an exorbitant rent.

8501. Therefore the advantages to be derived to the labourers must depend a great deal upon the character of the landlord, and upon the spirit in which the land is let, in order to be of essential advantage?—It must; if it is let with an intention to benefit the labourers, and to make them into such labourers as I could wish to see them, then the advantages are very great.

8502. But if, on the contrary, that land is the property of an oppressive and grinding landlord, that very subdivision may be turned to the disadvantage of the labourers?—It may, and in Ireland it has been so done.

8503. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You say that part of the land should be cultivated in wheat; do not you think it important that that should be made a stipulation by which some straw should be made?—I would prefer such a stipulation, that if a man has half an acre or three-quarters, he should grow one-half in wheat, and that the straw should be used about the place for the purpose of manuring the land.

8504. It is very material that he should keep up the heart of the land by manure?—Yes.

8505. It also leads to a habit of care and cleanliness in the management of his wheat?—That is what I recommend.

8506. Do not you know that where this allotment exists, it is the custom to buy a pig upon credit?—I am not aware.

8507. Mr. *Walker.*] Do you know whether any stipulation is made as to the kind of produce to be raised?—I am not aware.

8508. You think the labourer may use the land as he pleases?—Yes, I have that information.

8509. Mr. *Estcourt.*] In parishes where allotments are very general, do you think that it would be a safe test to apply the peremptory rule, that all able-bodied labourers wanting relief should receive it in the workhouse?—I think that bad, under any circumstances.

8510. Therefore you do not mean to say that the application of the allotment would make you more friendly to the peremptory rule than you are at present?—No, for this reason; there may cases occur where the people have not land, and while a rule such as that exists,—for instance, take the case of a woman confined only 40 hours before: there is a rule saying, that she shall not be relieved except in the workhouse; I think that is bad, if it is applied to only one person in the kingdom.

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8511. Mr. *Miles.*] Is the allotment system tolerably general throughout the Ampthill Union?—Not very general; there are some portions in the parish of Hawnes, some in Flitton, and there are some in Maulden; but the surveyor of the union will be before you, and he will tell you how many allotments there are much better than I can.

8512. Did it appear to you that there was more contentment in the villages in which the allotments were, as compared with others in which there were no allotments?—The difference is so great between the places where the allotments are and where they are not, that it is impossible for me in words to describe the difference; it must be seen, to be believed.

8513. Does the system of allotment seem to be on the increase in the Ampthill Union?—I am not aware that it has increased much; in the parish of Cranfield there has been a new inclosure lately, and they have been letting out some this spring.

8514. *Chairman.*] Did you state that there were a considerable number of allotments in the parish of Maulden?—Yes, there are a good many, but I am not acquainted with them so well as the surveyor.

8515. Mr. *Liddell.*] It is upon Lord de Grey's property that it is principally carried into effect?—Yes, Lord de Grey's and Lord Carteret's, and I believe some belonging to his Grace the Duke of Bedford

8516. Mr. *Fielden.*] From what you have just now stated, I infer that you think that the labourers are disposed to work, and work diligently, in the Ampthill Union, provided they could obtain labour and a sufficient remuneration for it?—That is the determination of the working people, taking them in general; there are exceptions, but not so many as is supposed; the cry is for work, "Give us work, and we do not care."

8517. Those 30 labourers in this table are men of that character, that they would be willing to have those allotments, and to have their condition improved in that way?—Yes, if they had the allotments in the manner I have stated, I am sure that it would improve the condition of those labourers to a very great extent.

8518. There appear to have been some errors committed in this table you have put in, from the returns from the parish of Westoning, as to some of those individuals having received relief?—There are, and I am sorry that the two names were not placed on the other list; and it was from misinformation, not from a desire to mislead the Committee, or from a desire to bring any thing that was not correct before them; I wish the whole to be investigated to see whether they are correct or not.

8519. Your table will afford an opportunity of testing the truth of this statement to any individual who will take the pains to do so?—Any one that will take the pains to examine the truth of the statement may do so.

8520. Not only with reference to the sum they did receive in parish relief, but as to the amount of wages and the earnings of their wives and children?—Yes, I am very anxious that they should do so.

8521. Any errors that have arisen will not make any great alteration in the result of the table?—It would not make much difference, because in those two instances if they were receiving this amount of money, they were receiving it when they were not working; I am quite certain that they would not be receiving weekly wages and that amount from the parish at that time.

8522. As to the earnings of the wives and children of those families, though it is put down in the head of the column that those are the earnings, you do not intend that it should be more than an estimate which they have given you?—I intended it as such, that it should be as nearly accurate as it was possible to get it.

8523. Is it possible, in going over the country in order to ascertain the amount of wages the people receive, that you could do it in any other way than by estimate of the week or the year?—Not at all; they do not keep books; and the only way is to get at the estimate of their earnings.

8524. Have you endeavoured to obtain the best information of what they could earn in plait and lace-making from others, besides the husbands and wives and children?—Yes, in every parish we have visited we have taken great pains to ascertain the amount of the earnings, as far as it was possible to get at them.

8525. From employers as well as the labourers themselves?—From all persons upon whom we could rely and get information.

 8526. Have

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8526. Have you any doubt that others can come up and speak to the truth of the earnings, as described in your table?—There are plenty that will come; if this Committee think proper, they may have the parties before them, and they would make the statement themselves; I would state that the Commissioners in their Report, have published an estimate of the earnings of a family, and they have stated them at lower figures than I have done; if the Committee is not satisfied with my statement of the earnings, I can give their account of the earnings.

8527. Where there has been an increase in the family, and the same sum appears in the two years, does it not occur to you that the mother having more children, would be able to do less herself?—That is what I have stated.

8528. Consequently the earnings would not be much greater than they were before?—Exactly; a mother with two children would be more able to do the plaiting than with three or four children.

8529. Your table does show an increase in the aggregate of this description of work?—Yes, it certainly does.

8530. You have been asked about one of those 30, whether he has not a pig, and you have stated, that if he has one, he will not eat it himself?—That is my decided opinion.

8531. Are you not aware that it is notorious that pigs are kept by almost every cottager in Ireland, and that those pigs are not eaten by the people who keep them?—I am aware that when they have fattened the pig, they do not eat it, but it is sent to some other part; and it is the case in Bedfordshire; pigs are sent to London.

8532. Do you think that Bedfordshire is approximating to the same state that Ireland is in?—Most certainly it is.

8533. Have you known other instances where men, besides this Pedder, have had a pig in their possession, since you have gone down to the Ampthill Union?—I have.

8534. Can you state one?—I can; a labourer of the name of John Sharp, who had been a great deal out of work; he has a wife and six children.

8535. In what parish?—The parish of Ampthill; "the oldest of his children is 13, and the youngest one, he has not constant work, only a few days' work now and then; has had half work since harvest;" this was taken in January, "and when at work, he has 9*s.* a week, and the family make lace; they earn by making lace about 2*s.* a week, as nearly as they could ascertain; they have 1*s.* a week to pay for rent, besides the fire-wood which they have to burn; the family lives on a quartern loaf a day, half in the morning and half in the afternoon, and potatoes and salt for dinner. The man sold his shoes last Sunday to buy a bit of bread for his children;" this man has a pig; he is a man of very good character, and the dealer had trusted him with a pig, and the miller had trusted him with barley-meal to feed the pig with.

8536. Then that is another instance of a poor man in distress still sustaining a character enabling him to obtain credit for a pig?—He had; the miller told me that he had trusted him with meal for the pig until he sold it.

8537. Does not that circumstance confirm you in the opinion that the labourers retain a character in that district, notwithstanding their extreme poverty?—They have maintained that character in many instances, notwithstanding what has been said often and often, that none of them need be out of work that will work; I am quite persuaded that there are men of good character, and that they have maintained their character, though they are suffering very severely.

8538. Another circumstance on which you were asked a question was, as to whether some of those men were not in benefit clubs; may not there some have come into benefit clubs this year, which this table will not include?—Certainly, that I believe; but I also believe that some are in benefit clubs, and their money is paid into benefit clubs, and their families are wanting bread at the same time; in fact, I have some cases of that description.

8539. But in your table, you have given the number in benefit clubs, and the money which they paid in the first year for that purpose?—Yes, where they stated they were in benefit clubs, I put them down as paying 16*s.* or 18*s.* for benefit clubs, as the case may be.

8540. You have expressed, and, as I think, very properly, a strong desire on your mind, that something should be done for the relief of the labourers, and you think the allotment of land would afford them relief?—I am sure that it is the best and safest remedy, and at the least expense, that can be adopted for the labourers in agricultural districts.

8541. Do you see any chance of those poor men getting on at all without some assistance in the mean while, till that relief by allotment of land can be afforded them?—No; they are now in distress, and that would be, (begging pardon for using the expression,) like saying, as we say in Lancashire, "Live horse, and you shall have grass," to say they shall not have relief till they have allotments of land.

8542. And that is a great hardship upon industrious men not having either land afforded them, by which they could grow something for their own support, or parish allowance?—I do think so; I have expressed myself so before; and I am still of that opinion.

8543. What is it, now, that leads those men to have this abhorrence of the workhouse, that they will not accept of the relief offered in that way?—The first thing is a scarcity of food; every one whom I have seen, who has come out of the workhouse, say they have not enough; it is a general feeling among them in all parts; those that have come out have not given it the best names in the world, and whatever their feelings were before, they are not less strong against it than they used to be, because they have not a sufficiency of food. Another reason why they object to it, is the confinement; as far as the idle and dissolute are concerned who are there, upon that I would not say one word; but I think it very improper that the aged, 70 or 80 years of age, should not be allowed even to go out without having to ask leave of the board, which is a thing they are not very partial to; if they ask, and give a reason why they want to go and see their friends, I believe in all instances it would be allowed; but what I would recommend is, that the old men and old women should be allowed to take a walk out when they wish, as they do in some instances; for instance, in Biggleswade, the old men are allowed to go out when they choose, keeping regular order, but in the Ampthill Union they are not allowed, under any circumstances, to go out without the consent of the board of guardians; I think that is one of the reasons why they do not like to go in, because of the confinement which they are subject to there; it is to all intents and purposes a prison.

8544. Mr. *Miles.*] Having looked so critically into the food, which, at the present wages, and at the present price of provisions, the labourer can afford himself in his cottage, and being yourself cognizant of the food which he gets in the workhouse, do you conceive that the quantity which he gets at home is very much larger than the quantity which he gets at the workhouse?—No, but I consider that he has not enough at home, but when he is out, he is not confined; he may have more food in the workhouse than he has at home, because no one goes there till he is driven to the last shift; but though he may have more food in the workhouse than some of those whom I have named have at home, notwithstanding that, they have not a sufficiency which people ought to have, more especially men of 60 or 70 years of age; old men of that sort would eat a great deal more than they have, if they had it.

8545. Then it is on account of the small quantity of food that the labourers object to enter in the workhouse?—It is that, and the confinement; but in no instance have I found that they have so small a quantity of solid food as in the Ampthill Union Workhouse.

8546. *Chairman.*] I find in the Ampthill workhouse they have four ounces of bread more than in the St. George's, Hanover-square, workhouse?—Yes, but they have a scarcity of other things as well as bread.

8547. Mr. *Miles.*] If the workhouse system is at all necessary, do you not think it very necessary that the maintenance in the workhouse should not be placed above the maintenance of an independent man out of doors?—I think that those whom old age and poverty have brought to the state that they ought to be in the workhouse, ought to have a moderate quantity of food.

8548. Is there not a difference in the dietary relative to persons above 60 in the Ampthill workhouse; have they not certain little articles of tea and sugar allowed which the able-bodied paupers are not allowed?—I believe some of them have that, but it is not very general, there is not much of that.

8549. Then it is not according to their option when they are of a certain age whether they will have it or not?—I believe not.

8550. Have you inquired?—I have, but I never met with any body who told me when he came out that he had tea, though above 60 years of age.

8551. *Chairman.*] Are you not aware that it is one of the printed regulations that they are entitled to it?—Yes, I am aware that they are entitled to it, but I am not aware that they get it.

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8552. Mr. *Miles.*] Then if so, it is not the fault of the system, but of those who administer the system in the workhouse?—Whosoever's fault it is, I have not ascertained that they get it.

8553. *Chairman.*] With regard to the comparison between St. George's, Hanover-square, and Ampthill, you doubt whether the Ampthill dietary provides as much solid food as that of St. George's?—That was what I stated.

8554. Solid food would consist of bread, meat, cheese and potatoes?—Yes.

8555. If, therefore, you should find that of those articles St. George's, Hanover-square, gives 141 ounces a week, and Ampthill 166, wouldit not appear to you that the quantity of solid food was greater in the Ampthill workhouse than it was in St. George's?—It would, but I should think if they have in St. George's, Hanover-square, only 141 ounces, it was a very small portion.

8556. Are you aware that the dietary has been tried for many years, and been found not to interfere with the health of the inmates under the superintendence of competent surgeons and physicians?—I am aware that a great deal has been said about St. George's, Hanover-square, and that some say it does them good; I am aware that some others say that they have a sufficiency in Ampthill; but, with all due deference to their opinions, I beg leave to say that I do not believe them.

8557. At least it would appear from this statement, that in the Ampthill workhouse 166 ounces of solid food are given, and in St. George's 141, giving a considerable advantage to the Ampthill dietary. If it should be stated that the St. George's, Hanover-square, dietary has been tried for several years, and been found not to interfere with the health of the inmates, would you not infer that the dietary at Ampthill, as far as the amount of solid food was concerned, upon the experience of St. George's, Hanover-square, was sufficient?—I can never believe that it is sufficient; all the experience that they can show in St. George's, Hanover-square, can never show me that five ounces of bread and an ounce of cheese is sufficient for a man.

8558. Do you not think, upon the whole, that experience is the safest guide in determining what should be the amount of any diet?—Experience may go a great way, but the appetite goes a great deal farther.

8559. If a dietary should be tried for a great many years, should you not think that that would be the best criterion on which to form an opinion?—It may be a criterion for some; but it is not a sufficiency; let them have all the experience in the world, it is not what I should like to live upon.

8560. If you do not like to form an opinion upon experience, upon what ground would you form your opinion?—Upon practice.

8561. How do you distinguish practice from experience?—If those who recommend five ounces of bread and one ounce of cheese for dinner and for supper, live upon it for about two or three months, they will soon find it insufficient.

8562. Do you describe those to live upon five ounces of bread at breakfast, and five ounces of bread at dinner?—They have no bread and cheese dinner.

8563. Have they not, besides five ounces of bread at breakfast, a pint and a half of gruel?—Yes, they have.

8564. Is there not some nourishment in gruel?—There is not much in some of it; then they have for their dinner some bread and some soup three days in the week.

8565. They have three times a week four ounces of meat, three times a week a pound of potatoes, three times a week a pint and a half of soup, and on Friday, 14 ounces of suet pudding?—They complain the most of the suet pudding; but the soup is a very scanty dinner, and they have five ounces of bread and cheese for supper.

8566. Mr. *Liddell.*] Why do they complain the most of the suet pudding?—Because it is not enough; it is the scantiest dinner.

8567. What do they get?—Fourteen ounces,

8568. Mr. *Fielden.*] As regards experience, do the labourers that go into the Ampthill workhouse come out better than they went in?—As far as that question goes, I am not prepared to say, because they do not go in till they are at the farther end; they are bad enough when they go in; it is hardly a fair question to ask whether they mend or not, because they are at the worst when they go in.

8569. Have they not an objection to go into the workhouse from its breaking up their habitations?—They have in most instances; when persons are driven

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to that, when they have to go to the workhouse, they are a little behind with their rent, and when they have gone there it has often happened that the landlord has been obliged, in protection to himself, to seize upon them for the rent, and they have a dread of it, thinking that the landlord would wait rather better, if there was a probability of their getting work, than if they were in the workhouse.

8570. What means have they of coming out of the workhouse when they have once got into it?—They can come out at any time they choose by giving three hours' notice, but they have nothing to come to; if they have no work, they have no chance; in some instances the guardians have advanced a trifle of money to set them up with when they come out, but not a sufficiency to place them on a fair footing.

8571. Mr. *Liddell.*] Are any steps taken by the guardians to endeavour to get work for labourers in the workhouse?—I am not aware of it, I have no information of that sort.

8572. As it is a charge upon the union, it is probable that the guardians, if an opportunity occur, would endeavour to relieve the union from the charge?—I have known the guardians offer them work when they have applied for relief, to save them from going into the workhouse, but I have no instance where they have offered them work when they have gone out.

8573. Are the men themselves, when in the workhouse, likely to receive information of work if it is in the power of any person in the neighbourhood to give it?—Some of their friends outside would let them know, or if they wanted to look for work, they would be allowed to go out to look for work.

8574. *Chairman.*] The man would be allowed to leave the workhouse for a few hours, or a day, to look for work?—Yes, if there was work in the neighbourhood.

8575. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is the workhouse offered to any part of the family, unless the husband goes in, and takes his whole family?—In some instances the husband has gone in, and left the family out.

8576. Have you, while you have been at Ampthill, endeavoured to ascertain how the rate-payers have been affected by the operation of the new Poor Law?—The payers of rates have saved a considerable sum of money, but to what extent I am not able to say.

8577. Have you heard any complaints of a falling off in the custom of those who keep shops, in consequence of the impoverished means of the labourers in that union?—A very great deal.

8578. Can you state what has been observed to you by different persons with whom you have come in contact when you have made inquiries on that subject?—In the parish of Ampthill there is a wholesale grocer who supplies the country places round about, and he states that his business has fallen off very considerably since this new law was passed; so much as 40 *l.* in a quarter of a year has his business fallen off.

8579. *Chairman.*] What is the name of the grocer?—Claridge. In that part of Bedfordshire, the principal part, I may say the whole of the groceries, and all the things that are not grown in that part of the country, such as wheat and potatoes and so on, clothing and groceries and that, come down from London; and I was asking a carrier one day concerning his business; he is a very respectable man, and he states that four years ago he used to bring as many goods in a week as he and another man, who follows the same business, do in a month now, clearly showing that there is a very great falling off in the consumption of those articles in that neighbourhood, that being the way in which the whole of those articles come into the neighbourhood.

8580. That applies to the falling off in the sale of groceries by that individual?—I am speaking, first, as regards the grocer who supplies the neighbouring villages and towns, and then as to the carriers, who are the means of bringing them into the country, to confirm the other statement.

8581. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have the other tradesmen, such as tailors, shoemakers and other tradesmen, who supply the poor with such things as they want, also complained?—They all complain; the shoemakers complain very much that they do not get so much work, that they do not make so many shoes for the poor people as they used to do; the tailors complain also to a great extent, and the shopkeepers in all instances; the bread-bakers in every instance. We have taken pains to ask them whether the people get more bread or less bread than they

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they used to do, and in every instance the bread-bakers declare that the people do not get so much bread; they cannot buy as they used to do.

8582. Then have the means of those tradesmen and dealers in different articles been diminished rather than increased by the operation of the new law, as far as your information goes?—As far as their statements are made to me, and which I have reason to believe are correct, for they all gave the same reason or similar, which amounted to the same, that their means are considerably diminished since the passing of the new law.

8583. Have they expressed satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the operation of the new law?—Invariably dissatisfaction.

8584. Can you tell the Committee whether begging in the Ampthill Union has been on the increase, from the reports which you have heard while you have been down there?—They say it is on the increase; those that are of a benevolent feeling say, that what they have saved in rates, goes in charity; and I saw, last Friday, two labourers who had been round begging, having been to the board the day before; I saw them myself going round, soliciting bread for their children.

8585. Who are they, then, in the Ampthill Union, as far as your information goes, who do approve of this new law?—The large farmers, who are pocketing a good deal of money by it in the saving of the rates; those, generally, approve of it who have some benefit out of it; but I have not met with any body who approves of it, if they have not some pecuniary interest in it. To my knowledge I have not met with a working man that has ever approved of it, during the whole time I have been there.

8586. Those men whom you have mentioned, whom you saw begging, had they orders to go into the workhouse?—They might go into the workhouse if they chose.

8587. Had they orders?—One had an order; my information is, that they had the order, but would not go, but cried, and said, "I will go and see if I can go and beg a bit of bread; I will not go in if I can keep out."

8588. Do you know the name?—The name of that was Bowstad.

8589. This man preferred commencing the life of a beggar to entering the workhouse?—It was the wife who went begging; but in the other instance it was Virgin, and he preferred begging to going into the workhouse; he asked for work, and then he asked to give him bread, for his family was starving.

8590. Have you heard of any rise of rents having taken place in the Ampthill Union since this law came into operation?—I am aware that in some instances they have received notice that the rents will be advanced; and I also know that there were two farms—the day was fixed when the farms should be let, and I know that the steward who let them applied to the parish books to know the amount of parish rates, that he might fix the price accordingly; the general impression is, that the rents will be raised in consequence of having fewer rates to pay; there is no question that that will be the result.

8591. Did you hear at all of allowances being made out of the rents at the audit days, before the law came into operation?—That used to be the case some time ago, I am informed, but I cannot speak very clearly to that, and now it is not; I do know an instance in one parish, where the minister used to return 15 per cent. out of the tithes; but he told them now that the poor-rates were reduced, he could not return the 15 per cent., he must have his full amount.

8592. That practice, then, of making those abatements on the rent days, have you reason to believe has subsided?—I have heard no account of that; while I have been down, there has been nothing said about that.

8593. And have you reason to believe that notice has been given by some parties that there will be a rise of rents?—I know that there has.

8594. Then, from what you state, the tradesmen, the shopkeepers, and the labouring people themselves, all complain of the operation of this law?—Universally so.

8595. And begging is said to be going on increasing in the Ampthill Union?—That is what the benevolent people said.

8596. The benevolent people that you allude to, of what description are they, people who live on small means?—Yes, tradesmen, and people who live on small means.

8597. Are they likely to be acquainted with the circumstances of the poor?—I think they are.

8598. Have

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8598. Have any of those told you that they have to give more in charity than any saving they received from the rates?—They have made that statement to me.

8599. In more than one instance you have been told this?—Yes.

8600. While you have been down at Ampthill, did there something occur that was called a riot?—There did.

8601. Was there such a thing as a riot took place during your stay, or any thing deserving that name?—I did not hear that there was, but the police officers were sent down; I had better state the origin of it, and how it occurred. Being in Bedford in January, we saw the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, who, among other things, stated that no able-bodied labourers who were willing to work were out of work in Bedfordshire. We made no secret of that; when we saw 10 or 20, or 30, out of work, we told them what he said; that there were a number of men who would not work, and if they were willing to work, they might get work; they felt hurt at it. There were some clerks sent down from London into Ampthill, to make out some returns which have been laid before this Committee; and they took it upon them to inquire of the labourers, when they saw 20 or 30 standing together, and had nothing to do, whether they were not better off now, when this Poor Law was in operation, than they were before. In consequence of these men's statement, it was pretty well understood throughout the country, that a great many were out of work, and my colleague said to them, but unknown to me, if he was them he would show them whether they were out of work or not. In consequence of that expression, they did, to the amount of something like 200, I am told from 100 to 300 were the various reports, but I did not see them, assemble together to show that so many were out of work; but that the men were as peaceable, and as quiet, and as orderly as we are in this room now. But notwithstanding that, the police were sent for from London, to quell the riot, and the policemen themselves (one of whom I saw in Whitehall the other day, who may be called before this Committee if they think proper), states, that there was no more necessity for the police to be sent for from London, when they got there, than there is for the police to be sent to disturb us here; that the people were out of work, that they came to show that they were out of work, and went back as peaceably as they came.

8602. *Chairman.*] Did you hear the policemen say so?—I did, and since I have come up to London now.

8603. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know how long the policemen were down on that occasion?—I am not sure whether they arrived there on the Thursday night or Friday night; Friday night, I believe, and remained till Wednesday morning; I frequently saw them while they were there, and they said they came to take us up for breeding a riot.

8604. Were the inhabitants with whom you conversed of the same opinion that you are, that no necessity existed for the policemen to go down to Ampthill?—I never heard any body express alarm; the people assembled there from two to three hours; I did not see them, and that they then went away as peaceably as when they came.

8605. Was it merely that those men were sent for the purpose of making known that they were out of work and were suffering great distress?—I am told that that was the only object they had in view, to show that they really were out of work.

8606. Are you aware that a petition has been presented to this House, and is now before this Committee, complaining of the conduct of persons, whom they call spies, having made their appearance in Ampthill?—I am; I had a copy of that petition put into my hand immediately after its presentation.

8607. Have you reason to believe that you are one of those who are denominated in that way in that petition?—I have good reason to believe that it was to me and Mr. Crabtree they alluded in calling us spies.

8608. Mr. *Miles.*] What is your reason for thinking so?—Because first, the petition went from the board of Ampthill, signed by the chairman, vice-chairman, and a number of other guardians, stating that persons were there breeding a disturbance, (I have not a copy of it in my hand) that persons were in the neighbourhood using expressions unfavourable to the new Poor Law, and were disturbing the minds of the inhabitants in that neighbourhood, and against the parties who were carrying the law into effect. I have every reason to believe that I was one of those parties whom they meant; and the petition stated that they

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they were practising a system of espionage which I think I never deserved. The first day I went into Ampthill I told who and what I was to the authorities before I told any body else; and the same in Bedford, and I would have done the same in Woburn if I had been allowed.

8609. Mr. *Fielden.*] During the time you were down there, had you done any thing calculated to alarm the neighbourhood or disturb the peace of that district?—I am not aware that I had, but on all occasions the conduct of the great portion of the inhabitants of the great part of the country would prove that they did not think so.

8610. Have you had expressions of gratitude made to you for having taken up this inquiry, and directed attention to the wants of poor people who were suffering severe distress?—In frequent instances, in numberless instances, have they expressed gratitude that some one had come down to inquire into the condition of the poor, both by the poor themselves, by the tradesmen, and by a great many people in that part, so that they have not used expressions as if they were alarmed at our being in that neighbourhood.

8611. You are well satisfied with the effects of your visit to Ampthill having been such as you have just now observed, and of the gratification the people feel that you have made inquiry?—I am, I feel a degree of satisfaction in my own mind that I have made those inquiries.

8612. You think that the aspersions thrown upon you by that petition were altogether undeserved?—I think so, but perhaps I am not a fit judge in my own case.

8613. In the Appendix to the evidence you gave in the last day you were here, there was a return of the number of illegitimate children whose baptism had been registered in the parish of Cranfield, from the 1st of January 1830, to the 4th of April 1838, signed James Beard, Rector, and Richard Gardner, Curate, giving 25 baptisms between the years 1830 and 1838, inclusive; have you any observations to make on that return?—I not only think, but I am sure, that that return is a fallacious one; for if there have been no more baptized in Cranfield, there have been a great deal more born than that. Being in Cranfield, and inquiring as to the increase of bastardy, I got the names of a number of those who had children within the last 12 months; the number of those born and near being born in the parish of Cranfield are 14; none of those is more than a year old, notwithstanding the return states that there are only four, the number born are ten, and four expected to be born.

8614. *Chairman.*] You say, generally, your belief is, that in the Ampthill Union the number of illegitimate children has increased since the passing of the law?—Yes, according to all the information I could collect.

8615. I hold in my hand copies of returns, signed by the ministers of the respective parishes of Flitwick, Millbrook, Ampthill, Cranfield, Lidlington, Upper Gravenhurst, Marston, Moretaine, Flitton-cum-Silsoe, Clophill, Houghton-Conquest, Maulden, Higham, Gobion, Westoning, Lower Gravenhurst and Shitlington; those are copies of returns made to the Home-office, in pursuance of an order of the House of Lords, of the number of illegitimate children registered by those clergymen of those parishes, for the three years ending the 31st of December 1834, and for the three years ending the 31st of December 1837; and upon adding those together, I find that the number registered in the two periods respectively, is exactly the same?—But if we must judge of the report of Cranfield, and compare it with the other one, and compare the statement of the number and names, that appears to be inaccurate.

8616. You say that the number of illegitimate children born, or likely to be born, in the parish of Cranfield very much exceeds the return given by the clergyman?—Yes.

8617. If the return had been made in the previous period, would there not be many children whose birth had not been registered previous to the law?—At the time before the law it was known when every woman was near having a child; the parish officer knew almost before she knew herself, so that there was no concealment; there is now no inducement for somebody to run to tell the overseer, because the woman is not likely to be removed, and there is not the facility now of it being known; but these inquiries I have made on the spot, and these are the parties, the same as regards Ampthill parish, though they have given the names in those instances; but I have three or four, four I think, in the last year, whose names are not given in the return from Ampthill; I have four more from the parish

parish of Ampthill, knowing their names and their circumstances, that are not in that return.

Mr. *James Turne*

4 May 1838.

8618. Supposing an increase of illegitimate children to have taken place, to what do you attribute it?—We have not minced the matter in asking questions; they have told us that the men have found out that they have nothing to pay, and that they have taken advantage of it.

8619. Have not the women found out that they have more to pay?—They forget on those occasions.

8620. Mr. *Miles.*] How are those ten children maintained?—By the mothers.

8621. Without any assistance from the fathers?—I am not aware of any assistance being given.

8622. Did you make the inquiry?—I did, in most instances. I found one had contributed 10*s.* towards the expenses.

8623. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Can you make any suggestion of any remedy for that?—My suggestion would be, that the more guilty party should not go free, and the weaker sex have the whole burthen to bear; I think that very improper.

8624. Mr. *Fielden.*] You think that the return from Mr. is no answer to the observation you made, and the question that refers to it?—No; when I was asked the question on a former day, I stated the number, and I expected that the return would have been something like corresponding with what I had stated.

8625. Is there any other observation which you wish to make on any thing which you have seen or heard during your stay in Ampthill?—I am not aware that I have any other observation to make, more than I have done.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX (A.)—A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, showing the CONDITION of FORTY-EIGHT MEN belonging to the Parish of *Westoning*,

NAME of the LABOURER.	Age of Labourer.	Work employed on in 1834.	Wife or not.	Children living with Parents.	Age of the oldest Child.	Age of the youngest Child.	Number of Weeks Labourer was employed in 1834.	Rate of Wages per Week.	Amount of Wages of Labourer at his Employment in 1834.	Additional for Harvests.	Amount of Earnings of Labourer's Wife and Children.	Additional for Gleaning.	Allowance from Parish for Work and Relief for Labourer and his Family.	Total Income of Family.	Outgoings for Rent, Fuel, Rates, &c.	Net Income applicable for Food, Clothing, Soap, Candles and other necessaries.	Number of Persons in Labourers' Family.	Average Income per Head for the Year 1834.	Average Income per Head per Week for 1834.
								s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		£. s. d.	s. d.
Joseph Lingard	31	jobbing	wife	3	10	4	8	9 –	3 12 –	2 – –	1 10 4	– – –	18 14 –	25 16 4	4 14 –	21 2 4	5	4 4 5½	1 7½
John Carter	25	- ditto -	wife	2	5	2	10	9 –	4 10 –	2 – –	– – –	– – –	13 18 –	20 8 –	6 18 –	13 10 –	4	3 7 6	1 3½
Jacob Bonner	32	- ditto -	wife	4	9	2	9	9 –	4 1 –	2 – –	7 16 –	– – –	17 14 –	31 11 –	7 10 7	24 – 5	6	4 – 1	1 6½
Joseph Chew	22	- ditto -	– –	–	–	–	12	5 –	3 – –	1 – –	– – –	– – –	5 5 –	9 5 –	2 12 –	6 13 –	1	6 13 –	2 6¾
Samuel Bonner	74	- ditto -	wife	2	40	9	23	6 –	6 18 –	1 – –	– – –	– – –	4 7 –	12 5 –	3 – –	9 5 –	4	2 6 3	– 10¼
Thomas Bunker	67	- ditto -	– –	–	–	–	13	6 –	3 18 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	6 17 –	10 15 –	– – –	10 15 –	1	10 15 –	4 1½
Peter Bonner	42	- ditto -	wife	7	19	2	9	9 –	4 1 –	2 – –	13 – –	– – –	18 4 –	37 5 –	6 18 –	30 7 –	9	3 7 5¼	1 3½
John King	22	jobbing	– –	–	–	–	26	6 –	7 16 –	1 – –	10 8 –	– – –	– – –	35 16 –	6 18 –	28 18 –	5	5 15 7	2 2¾
William Lowens	45	shepherd	wife	–	–	–	52	8 –	20 16 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	3 10 –	12 6 –	2 12 –	9 14 –	1	9 14 –	3 8¼
John Short	23	jobbing	– –	–	–	–	10	6 –	3 – –	1 – –	10 8 –	– – –	– – –	3¹ 4 –	6 18 –	24 6 –	2	12 3 –	4 8
William Odell	37	- ditto -	wife	4	12	1	17	10 –	8 10 –	2 – –	– – –	– – –	5 5 –	9 5 –	2 12 –	6 13 –	1	6 13 –	2 6¾
William Phillips	20	- ditto -	– –	–	–	–	52	6 –	15 12 –	– – –	10 8 –	– – –	14 – –	34 18 –	6 18 –	28 – –	6	4 13 4	1 9½
John Knight	59	- ditto -	wife	4	20	16	29	7 –	9 13 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	15 12 –	2 12 –	13 – –	1	13 – –	5 –
James Walton	27	- ditto -	wife	–	–	–	22	8 –	8 16 –	2 – –	20 16 –	– – –	5 15 –	36 4 –	6 3 –	31 1 –	6	5 – 2	1 11
William Chance	23	thresher	wife	1	1	1	16	8 –	6 8 –	2 – –	3 18 –	– – –	7 10 –	22 4 –	6 10 –	15 14 –	2	7 17 –	3 –¼
Joseph Phillips	51	jobbing	wife	1	6	6	44	10 –	8 16 –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	9 – –	17 18 –	6 18 –	11 – –	3	3 13 4	1 5
William Marlow	43	thresher	wife	4	9	1	10	8 –	4 – –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	2 – –	26 10 –	6 18 –	19 12 –	3	6 10 8	2 6
Robert Odell	26	carter	wife	–	–	–	52	7 –	18 4 –	2 – –	2 12 –	– – –	17 6 –	25 18 –	6 18 –	19 – –	6	3 3 4	1 2½
William Aldridge	19	jobbing	– –	–	–	–	35	6 –	10 – –	1 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	24 10 –	6 10 –	14 4 –	2	7 2 –	1 8¾
Benjamin Cox	41	- ditto -	wife	5	16	1	12	8 –	4 16 –	2 – –	– – –	– – –	2 2 –	13 2 –	2 12 –	10 10 –	1	10 10 –	4 –¼
Thomas Odell	30	- ditto -	wife	2	3	1	13	8 –	5 4 –	2 – –	16 2 –	– – –	16 10 –	39 8 –	6 18 –	32 10 –	7	4 13 –	1 9½
John Odell	27	cripple	wife	3	5	1	–	– – –	2 12 –	(for a lodger)	– – –	– 10 –	14 3 –	31 7 –	6 18 –	14 9 –	4	3 12 3	1 4¾
James Nield	31	jobbing	wife	3	7	1	31	8 –	12 8 –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	20 16 –	23 18 –	6 18 –	17 – –	5	3 8 –	1 3¾
William Guisley	69	- ditto -	wife	–	–	–	33	6 –	9 18 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	7 7 –	21 15 –	6 18 –	14 17 –	5	2 19 5	1 1¾
William Pedder	37	thresher	wife	4	8	1	22	9 –	9 18 –	2 – –	– – –	– – –	5 14 –	15 12 –	6 18 –	8 14 –	2	4 7 –	1 8
William Short	30	- ditto -	wife	3	7	1	21	9 –	9 9 –	2 – –	4 2 –	– – –	11 – –	27 – –	6 18 –	20 2 –	6	3 7 –	1 3½
John Wilsted	53	jobbing	wife	1	9	9	9	9 –	4 1 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	8 6 –	25 1 6	7 18 –	17 3 6	5	3 8 8	1 3¾
John Somerfield	24	- ditto -	wife	1	2	2	27	9 –	12 3 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	17 5 –	28 10 –	7 18 –	20 12 –	3	6 17 4	2 7½
Daniel Kingham	25	- ditto -	wife	1	1	1	7	8 –	2 16 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	8 2 –	27 9 –	6 18 –	20 11 –	3	6 17 –	2 7½
George Jackson	51	- ditto -	wife	6	15	5	52	12s. 10s.	(parish watchman)	–	5 4 –	– – –	11 15 –	21 15 –	7 18 –	13 17 –	3	4 12 4	1 9¾
James Sherman	35	thresher	wife	3	11	4	8	9 –	3 12 –	2 – –	15 12 –	– – –	28 12 –	45 4 –	3 18 –	41 6 –	8	5 3 3	1 11¾
Richard Short	58	jobbing	wife	3	21	17	20	9 –	9 – –	2 – –	9 2 –	– – –	15 18 –	30 12 –	5 4 –	25 8 –	5	5 1 7	1 11½
James Brinkley	27	- ditto -	wife	3	4	1	10	9 –	4 10 –	2 – –	16 2 –	– – –	6 18 –	34 – –	3 18 –	30 2 –	5	6 – 5	2 3¾
William Lingard	24	- ditto -	– –	–	–	–	27	6 –	8 2 –	2 – –	2 12 –	– – –	15 4 –	24 6 –	6 10 –	17 16 –	5	3 11 2	1 4¼
James Lingard	17	- ditto -	– –	–	–	–	15	4 –	3 – –	1 – –	– – –	– – –	3 2 6	13 4 6	2 12 –	10 12 6	1	10 12 6	4 1
John Farr	57	shepherd	wife	–	–	–	11	6 –	3 6 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	4 12 6	8 12 6	2 12 –	6 – 6	1	6 – 6	2 3¾
William Phillips	53	thresher	wife	1	18	18	17	8 –	4 16 –	– – –	2 12 –	– – –	8 4 –	14 2 –	6 18 –	7 4 –	2	3 12 –	1 4½
Henry Hilyard	19	jobbing	– –	–	–	–	9	5 –	2 5 –	1 – –	10 8 –	– – –	7 – –	24 4 –	7 8 –	16 16 –	3	5 12 –	2 1¾
Job Sherwood	37	- ditto -	wife	5	10	1	38	10 –	19 – –	2 – –	– – –	– – –	5 7 6	8 12 –	2 12 –	6 – 6	1	6 – 6	2 3¾
John Hack	47	- ditto -	– –	–	–	–	6	6 –	1 16 –	1 – –	6 10 –	– – –	5 12 –	33 2 –	7 18 –	25 4 –	7	3 12 –	1 4¾
Jesse Short	16	- ditto -	– –	–	–	–	17	3 6	2 19 6	1 – –	– – –	– – –	6 18 –	9 14 –	3 18 –	5 16 –	1	5 16 –	2 2¾
Joseph Lingard	15	- ditto -	– –	–	–	–	25	2 6	3 2 6	1 – –	– – –	– – –	4 7 6	8 7 –	2 12 –	5 15 –	1	5 15 –	2 2¼
John Cox	17	This man formed part of his father's family in 1834; but in 1837, he boarded with his father and maintained himself											2 14 –	6 16 6	2 12 –	4 4 6	1	4 4 6	1 7¼
John Eaton	19	jobbing	– –	–	–	–	23	5 –	5 15 –	1 – –	– – –	– – –	3 17 6	10 12 6	2 12 –	8 – 6	1	8 – 6	3 1
John Kingham	27	thresher	wife	1	2	2	37	9 –	16 13 –	2 – –	3 18 –	– – –	4 17 6	27 8 6	7 3 –	20 5 6	3	6 15 2	2 7¼
Joseph Heaton	23	jobbing	wife	1	1	1	49	8 –	19 12 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	– 16 6	27 12 6	6 18 –	24 14 6	3	6 18 2	2 8
Thomas Guisley	30	- ditto -	wife	1	1	1	21	9 –	9 9 –	2 – –	3 18 –	– – –	7 15 –	22 12 –	6 10 –	16 2 –	3	5 7 4	2 –¾
							1,061		380 6 –	65 – –	197 14 4	2 10 –	404 4 –	1,049 14 4	256 6 7	793 7 9	163	4 17 4	1 10½

The above Table shows, that in 1834 the 48 labourers named in it, together with their wives and children, numbered

The number of weeks that these 48 labourers were employed at their occupations as husbandmen in 1834, amounted

The wages they received for that employment amounted collectively to the sum of - - - - - -
The wages of their wives and children collectively amounted in 1834 to - - - - - - - -
The allowance from the parish for work and relief in 1834 amounted to - - - - - - - -

Total income in 1834 - - - - - -
The outgoings for rent and fuel for these 163 persons in 1834 amounted to - - - - - -

Leaving a net income, applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles, &c. &c. of - - - - - - -
annum, or 1s. 10½d. per head per week, which 1s. 10½d. would purchase 20¾ pints of wheat at the average

The number of weeks these 48 labourers were employed at their occupations in husbandry, or on the railroad, in 1837,
The wages they received for that employment amounted collectively to the sum of - - - - - -
The wages of their wives and children collectively amounted in 1837 to - - - - - - - -
The allowance from the parish as relief to four of these families only in 1837 was - - - - - -

Total income in 1837 - - - - - -
The outgoings for rent and fuel for these 197 persons in 1837, including £. 9 15. paid by 13 of these labourers

Leaving a net income for food, clothing, soap, candles, &c. &c. of - - - - - - - -
per head per week, which 1s. 6d. would purchase 13¾ pints of wheat, at the average price of wheat during the

Thus these husbandmen and their wives and children, by being thrown on their own resources under the operation of the new Poor Law, have, notwithstanding they have done 760 weeks more labour for their
to purchase wheat, a reduction of from 20¾ pints per head per week

APPENDIX.

in the AMPTHILL UNION, whose Employment has been irregular, for the Years 1834 and 1837. (*Vide* Twenty-fifth Report, Quest. 7804.)

Work employed on in 1837.	Number of Weeks employed.	Rate of Wages per Week.	Amount of Earnings of Labourer at his Employment.	Additional for Harvests.	Earnings of Labourer's Wife and Children.	Additional for Gleaning.	Allowance from Parish.	Total Income of Family.	Outgoings for Rent, Fuel and Rates.	Outgoing for Benefit Clubs.	Net Income applicable for Food, Clothing, Soap, Candles and other necessaries.	Number of Persons in Labourers Family.	Average Income per Head for the Year.	Income per Head per Week for the year 1837.	Income per Head per Week for the year 1834.	Pints of Wheat per Head per Week, the Income would buy in 1834.	Pints of Wheat per Head per Week, the Income would buy in 1837.	NAME of the LABOURER.
		s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.			
jobbing -	39	8 –	15 12 –	2 – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	20 4 –	4 14 –	– 15 –	14 15 –	5	2 19 –	1 1½	1 7½	18	$10\frac{4}{10}$	Joseph Lingard.
thresher -	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	25 8 –	6 18 –	– – –	18 10 –	5	3 14 –	1 5	1 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{3}{10}$	13	John Carter.
railroad -	44	12 6	27 10 –	– – –	7 16 –	– – –	– – –	35 6 –	7 10 7	– 15 –	27 – 5	8	3 7 $6\frac{1}{2}$	1 $3\frac{1}{4}$	1 $6\frac{1}{2}$	17	12	Jacob Bonner.
- ditto -	28	10 –	14 – –	– – –	5 4 –	– – –	– – –	19 4 –	6 18 –	– – –	12 6 –	3	4 2 –	1 7	2 $6\frac{3}{4}$	$28\frac{4}{10}$	$14\frac{6}{10}$	Joseph Chew.
infirm -	52	1 –	2 12 –	– – –	3 18 –	– – –	5 4 –	11 14 –	3 – –	– – –	8 14 –	3	2 18 –	1 $1\frac{1}{2}$	– $10\frac{3}{2}$	10	$10\frac{4}{10}$	Samuel Bonner.
jobbing -	26	6 –	7 16 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	7 16 –	– – –	– – –	7 16 –	1	7 16 –	3 –	4 $1\frac{1}{2}$	$45\frac{8}{10}$	$27\frac{6}{10}$	Thomas Bunker.
- ditto -	13	10 –	6 10 –	– – –	10 8 –	– – –	1 11 6	18 9 6	6 18 –	– – –	11 16 6	7	1 13 1	1 $7\frac{1}{2}$	1 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{8}{10}$	$5\frac{6}{10}$	Peter Bonner.
thresher -	37	9 –	16 13 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– – –	– – –	29 1 –	6 18 –	– – –	22 3 –	6	3 13 10	1 5	2 $2\frac{1}{4}$	$24\frac{7}{10}$	13	William Bonner.
jobbing -	37	9 –	16 13 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	– – –	23 17 –	5 18 –	– 15 –	17 4 –	3	5 14 8	2 $2\frac{1}{2}$	3 $8\frac{1}{4}$	$41\frac{4}{10}$	$20\frac{4}{10}$	John King.
- ditto -	13	8 –	5 4 –	– – –	10 8 –	– – –	– – –	15 12 –	6 18 –	– – –	8 14 –	2	4 7 –	1 8	4 8	52	$15\frac{6}{10}$	William Lowens.
- ditto -	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	28 10 –	6 18 –	– – –	21 12 –	2	10 16 –	4 2	2 $6\frac{3}{4}$	$28\frac{4}{10}$	$38\frac{4}{10}$	John Short.
- ditto -	38	8 –	15 4 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– – –	– – –	27 12 –	6 18 –	– – –	20 14 –	7	2 19 $1\frac{1}{2}$	1 $1\frac{1}{2}$	1 $9\frac{1}{2}$	20	$10\frac{4}{10}$	William Odell.
- ditto -	39	8 –	15 12 –	2 – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	20 4 –	6 18 –	– 15 –	12 11 –	5	2 10 $2\frac{1}{2}$	– $11\frac{1}{2}$	5 –	$55\frac{5}{10}$	$8\frac{6}{10}$	William Phillips.
- ditto -	16	7 –	5 12 –	– – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	8 4 –	6 3 –	– – –	2 1 –	2	1 – 6	– $4\frac{1}{2}$	1 11	$21\frac{6}{10}$	$3\frac{6}{10}$	John Knight.
- ditto -	52	8 –	20 16 –	2 – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	25 8 –	6 10 –	– 15 –	18 3 –	3	6 1 –	2 4	3 $-\frac{1}{4}$	$33\frac{5}{10}$	$21\frac{5}{10}$	James Walton.
thresher -	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	25 18 –	6 18 –	– – –	19 – –	4	4 15 –	1 10	1 5	16	17	William Chance
jobbing -	39	8 –	15 12 –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	18 2 –	6 18 –	– – –	11 4 –	3	3 14 8	1 $5\frac{1}{4}$	2 6	28	$13\frac{4}{10}$	Joseph Phillips.
- ditto -	35	8 –	14 – –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	– – –	21 4 –	6 18 –	– – –	14 6 –	7	2 – 10	– $9\frac{1}{2}$	1 $2\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{2}{11}$	$7\frac{3}{10}$	William Marlow.
railroad -	26	12 6	21 9 –	– – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	21 19 –	6 10 –	– – –	15 9 –	3	5 3 –	1 $11\frac{3}{4}$	2 $8\frac{1}{4}$	$30\frac{3}{10}$	$18\frac{3}{10}$	Robert Odell.
jobbing -	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	28 10 –	6 10 –	– – –	22 – –	3	7 6 8	2 $9\frac{3}{4}$	4 $-\frac{1}{2}$	$44\frac{9}{10}$	26	WilliamAldridge.
- ditto -	52	8 –	20 16 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– – –	– – –	33 4 –	6 18 –	– – –	26 6 –	9	2 18 5	1 $1\frac{1}{2}$	1 $9\frac{1}{2}$	20	$10\frac{4}{10}$	Benjamin Cox.
- ditto -	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	28 10 –	6 18 –	– – –	21 12 –	6	3 12 –	1 $4\frac{3}{4}$	1 $4\frac{3}{4}$	$15\frac{6}{10}$	$12\frac{9}{10}$	Thomas Odell.
cripple -	52	2 –	5 4 –	– – –	2 12 –	– 10 –	14 8 –	22 14 9	6 18 –	– – –	15 16 9	7	2 5 3	– $10\frac{1}{2}$	1 $3\frac{1}{4}$	$14\frac{6}{10}$	8	John Odell.
jobbing -	39	8 –	15 12 –	2 – –	– – –	– – –	13 – –	17 12 –	6 10 –	– – –	10 14 –	5	2 2 10	– 10	1 $1\frac{4}{5}$	$12\frac{7}{10}$	$7\frac{7}{10}$	James Nield.
infirm -	– –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	13 – –	6 18 –	– – –	6 2 –	2	3 1 –	1 $2\frac{1}{2}$	1 8	$18\frac{6}{10}$	$12\frac{7}{10}$	William Guisley.
thresher -	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	7 16 –	– – –	– – –	33 4 –	6 18 –	– 15 –	25 11 –	7	3 13 –	1 $5\frac{3}{4}$	1 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{3}{10}$	$13\frac{4}{10}$	William Pedder.
- ditto -	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	6 10 –	– – –	– – –	31 18 –	7 18 –	– 15 –	23 5 –	5	4 13 –	1 $9\frac{1}{2}$	1 $3\frac{3}{4}$	$14\frac{8}{10}$	$16\frac{8}{10}$	William Short.
jobbing -	48	9 –	21 12 –	– – –	5 4 –	– – –	– – –	26 16 –	7 18 –	– – –	18 18 –	3	6 6 –	2 5	2 $7\frac{1}{4}$	$29\frac{1}{10}$	$22\frac{8}{10}$	John Wilsted.
- ditto -	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	3 18 –	– – –	– – –	29 6 –	6 18 –	– – –	22 8 –	5	4 9 7	1 $8\frac{3}{4}$	2 $7\frac{1}{2}$	$29\frac{1}{10}$	$16\frac{1}{10}$	John Somerfield.
railroad -	39	12 6	24 7 6	– – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	26 19 6	7 18 –	– 15 –	18 6 –	5	3 13 $3\frac{1}{2}$	1 5	1 $9\frac{1}{4}$	$19\frac{6}{10}$	13	Daniel Kingham.
jobbing -	26	9 –	11 14 –	2 – –	15 12 –	– – –	– – –	29 6 –	3 18 –	– – –	25 8 –	8	3 3 6	1 $2\frac{1}{2}$	1 $11\frac{1}{2}$	22	$11\frac{3}{10}$	George Jackson.
thresher -	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	13 – –	– – –	– – –	30 8 8	5 4 –	– – –	33 4 –	5	6 12 10	2 $6\frac{1}{2}$	1 $11\frac{1}{4}$	$21\frac{7}{10}$	$23\frac{6}{10}$	James Sherman.
- ditto -	39	9 –	17 11 –	2 – –	13 – –	– – –	– – –	32 11 –	6 – –	– – –	26 11 –	5	5 6 2	2 $-\frac{1}{2}$	2 $3\frac{1}{4}$	$25\frac{7}{10}$	$18\frac{8}{10}$	Richard Short.
jobbing -	30	9 –	13 10 –	2 – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	18 2 –	6 10 –	– – –	11 12 –	6	1 18 8	– 9	1 $4\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{7}{10}$	$6\frac{2}{10}$	James Brinkley.
- ditto -	16	9 –	7 4 –	2 – –	1 – –	– 10 –	– – –	10 4 –	6 13 –	– 15 –	3 6 –	3	1 2 –	– 5	4 1	$45\frac{7}{10}$	$3\frac{8}{10}$	William Lingard.
railroad -	26	7 –	9 2 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	9 2 –	2 12 –	– – –	6 10 –	1	6 10 –	2 6	2 $3\frac{3}{4}$	$25\frac{7}{10}$	23	James Lingard.
shepherd	52	5 6	14 6 –	– – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	16 18 –	6 18 –	– – –	10 – –	2	5 – –	1 11	1 $4\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{3}{10}$	$17\frac{7}{10}$	John Farr.
thresher -	26	6 –	7 16 –	1 – –	10 8 –	– – –	– – –	19 4 –	7 8 –	– – –	11 16 –	3	3 18 8	1 6	2 $1\frac{3}{4}$	$23\frac{8}{10}$	14	William Phillips.
jobbing -	26	12 6	15 12 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	15 12 –	2 12 –	– 15 –	12 5 –	1	12 5 –	4 $8\frac{1}{2}$	2 $3\frac{1}{4}$	$25\frac{7}{10}$	$43\frac{4}{10}$	Henry Hilyard.
- ditto -	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	10 8 –	– – –	– – –	38 8 –	7 18 –	– – –	30 10 –	8	3 16 3	1 $5\frac{1}{2}$	1 $4\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{8}{10}$	$13\frac{7}{10}$	Job Sherwood.
- ditto -	36	6 –	10 16 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	10 16 –	3 18 –	– – –	6 18 –	1	6 18 –	2 8	2 $2\frac{3}{4}$	$24\frac{7}{10}$	$24\frac{8}{10}$	John Hack.
- ditto -	17	6 –	5 2 –	1 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	6 2 –	2 12 –	– – –	3 10 –	1	3 10 –	1 4	2 $2\frac{1}{2}$	$24\frac{8}{10}$	$12\frac{7}{10}$	Jesse Short.
railroad -	28	6 –	8 8 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	8 8 –	2 12 –	– – –	5 16 –	1	5 16 –	2 $-\frac{1}{2}$	1 $7\frac{1}{2}$	18	$20\frac{7}{10}$	Joseph Lingard.
dairyman	39	7 –	13 13 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	13 13 –	2 12 –	– – –	11 1 –	1	11 1 –	4 3	– –	– –	$39\frac{2}{10}$	John Cox.
railroad -	22	12 6	13 15 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	13 15 –	2 12 –	– – –	11 3 –	1	11 3 –	4 $3\frac{1}{4}$	3 1	$34\frac{3}{10}$	39	John Eaton,
jobbing -	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	28 – –	7 3 –	– 15 –	20 2 –	5	4 – 5	1 $6\frac{1}{2}$	2 $7\frac{1}{4}$	$28\frac{2}{10}$	$14\frac{2}{10}$	John Kingham.
- ditto -	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	– – –	30 12 –	6 12 –	– 15 –	22 19 –	4	5 14 9	2 $2\frac{1}{2}$	2 8	$29\frac{1}{10}$	20	Joseph Heaton.
- ditto -	50	8 –	20 – –	2 – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	24 12 –	6 10 –	– 15 –	17 7 –	5	3 9 5	1 4	2 $-\frac{3}{4}$	23	$12\frac{3}{10}$	Thomas Guisley.
	1,621	—	767 19 6	56 – –	197 6 –	4 – –	34 4 3	1,059 9 9	285 3 7	9 15 –	764 11 2	197	3 17 7	1 6	1 $10\frac{1}{2}$	$20\frac{3}{4}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$	

163 persons; and that in 1837 the same 48 labourers, together with their wives and children, numbered 197 persons.

collectively to 1,061 weeks, an average of 22 weeks for each person.

- - - - - - - - - - - -	£. 445 6 –
- - - - - - - - - - - -	200 4 4
- - - - - - - - - - - -	404 4 –
- - - - - - - - - - - -	£. 1,049 14 4
- - - - - - - - - - - -	256 6 7
- - - - - - - - - - - -	£. 793 7 9

price of wheat during 1834. ; that is, an average of £. 4. 17. 4. per head per

amounted collectively to 1,821; an average of 38 weeks for each.

- - - - - - - - - - - -	£. 823 19 6
- - - - - - - - - - - -	201 6 –
- - - - - - - - - - - -	34 4 3
- - - - - - - - - - - -	£. 1,059 9 9
to benefit clubs, amounted to - - - -	294 18 7
- - - - - - - - - - - -	£. 764 11 2

year 1837. ; that is, £. 3 17. 7. per head per annum, or 1s. 6d.

employers, suffered a reduction in their net money income per head per week, of from 1s. $10\frac{1}{2}$d. during 1834, to 1s. 6d. per head per week during 1837, or 20 per cent. and, in the means that money gave them in 1834, to $13\frac{1}{4}$ pints per head per week in 1837, or 34 per cent.

in the AMPTHILL UNION, whose Employment has been regular, for the Years 1834 and 1837. (*Vide* Quest. 8342.)

Work employed on in 1837.	Name of Employer in 1837.	Number of Weeks employed	Rate of Wages per Week.	Amount of Wages of Labourer at his Employment.	Additional for Harvests.	Earnings of Labourer's Wife and Children.	Additional for Gleaning.	Allowance from Parish.	Total Income of Family.	Outgoings for Rent and Fuel.	Outgoings for Benefit Clubs.	Net Income applicable for Food, Clothing, Soap, Candles, and other Necessaries.	Number of Persons in Family.	Average Income per Head for the Year 1837.	Income per Head per Week for the Year 1837.	Income per Head per Week for the Year 1834.	Pints of Wheat per Head the Income would buy per Week for 1834.	Pints of Wheat per Head per Week the Income would buy in 1837.	NAME of LABOURER.
			s. d.	£. *s. d.*	£. *s. d.*	£. *s. d.*	£. *s. d.*		£. *s. d.*	£. *s. d.*	£. *s. d.*	£. *s. d.*		£. *s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*			
thresher	Mr. Williamson	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	6 10 –	– –	– –	31 18 –	6 18 –	– –	25 – –	5	5 – –	1 11	2 $6\frac{1}{4}$	28	$17\frac{6}{10}$	John Cook.
shepherd	Mr. Sear	52	8 –	20 16 –	– –	15 12 –	– –	– –	36 8 –	6 18 –	– –	29 10 –	8	3 13 9	1 5	1 8	$18\frac{6}{10}$	13	George King.
thresher	Mr. Bowsted	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	7 16 –	– –	– –	33 4 –	6 18 –	– –	26 6 –	7	3 15 $1\frac{1}{2}$	1 $5\frac{1}{4}$	1 $4\frac{1}{4}$	15	$13\frac{2}{10}$	Joseph Bunker.
ditto	Mr. Bowsted	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	7 16 –	– –	– –	33 4 –	6 18 –	– –	26 6 –	5	5 5 $2\frac{1}{2}$	2 $-\frac{1}{4}$	1 $8\frac{3}{4}$	$19\frac{5}{10}$	$18\frac{6}{10}$	Thomas Bunyan.
carter	Mr. Smith	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– –	– –	35 16 –	6 18 –	– 15 –	28 3 –	8	3 10 $4\frac{1}{2}$	1 $4\frac{1}{4}$	1 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{3}{10}$	$12\frac{5}{10}$	William Bunker.
shepherd	Mr. Hawley	52	7 –	18 4 –	– –	– –	– 10 –	– –	18 14 –	6 10 –	– –	12 4 –	2	6 2 –	2 $4\frac{1}{4}$	2 $10\frac{1}{4}$	$31\frac{7}{10}$	$21\frac{7}{10}$	Crawley Bonner.
jobbing	Mr. Sear	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– –	– 10 –	– –	25 18 –	6 10 –	– –	19 8 –	6	3 4 8	1 3	1 6	$16\frac{6}{10}$	$11\frac{5}{10}$	John Bass.
ditto	Mr. Martindale	48	8 –	19 4 –	1 10 –	5 4 –	– –	– –	25 18 –	6 18 –	– –	19 – –	7	2 14 $3\frac{1}{2}$	1 $-\frac{1}{2}$	1 $9\frac{1}{4}$	$19\frac{6}{10}$	$9\frac{6}{10}$	Richard Pedder.
thresher	Mr. Oliver	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– –	– –	35 16 –	6 18 –	– –	28 18 –	6	4 16 4	1 $10\frac{1}{4}$	1 $8\frac{1}{4}$	$18\frac{7}{10}$	$17\frac{1}{10}$	Wm. Guisley.
shepherd	Mr. Oliver	52	5 –	13 – –	– –	– –	– –	– –	13 – –	2 12 –	– –	10 8 –	1	10 8 –	4 –	2 $5\frac{1}{2}$	$27\frac{3}{10}$	$36\frac{9}{10}$	Jesse Guisley.
jobbing	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– –	– 10 –	– –	28 10 –	6 18 –	– –	21 12 –	3	7 4 –	2 $9\frac{1}{4}$	4 $1\frac{3}{4}$	46	$25\frac{5}{10}$	Richard Gurney.
dairyman	Mr. Sear	52	8 –	20 16 –	– –	14 6 –	– –	– –	35 2 –	7 18 –	– –	27 4 –	9	3 – 5	1 2	1 $7\frac{3}{4}$	$18\frac{2}{10}$	$10\frac{7}{10}$	William Hyde.
jobbing	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– –	– –	– –	28 – –	3 18 –	– –	24 2 –	2	12 1 –	4 $7\frac{3}{4}$	9 $3\frac{1}{4}$	103	$42\frac{1}{10}$	Jos. Gurney.
thresher	Mr. Sear	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– –	– –	35 16 –	6 18 –	– –	28 18 –	6	4 16 4	1 $10\frac{1}{4}$	2 5	$26\frac{8}{10}$	$17\frac{1}{10}$	Thomas Gates.
jobbing	Mr. Muckleton	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– –	– –	30 12 –	6 18 –	– –	23 14 –	7	3 7 $8\frac{1}{2}$	1 $3\frac{1}{2}$	1 $7\frac{1}{2}$	18	$11\frac{8}{10}$	William Bunyan
carter	Mr. Sole	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– –	– 10 –	– –	25 18 –	6 10 –	– –	19 8 –	2	9 14 –	3 $8\frac{3}{4}$	3 $2\frac{3}{4}$	$35\frac{8}{10}$	$34\frac{4}{10}$	Henry Hyde.
jobbing	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	9 2 –	– –	– –	37 2 –	6 18 –	– –	30 4 –	6	5 – 8	1 $11\frac{1}{4}$	2 5	$26\frac{8}{10}$	$17\frac{8}{10}$	Peter Chance.
ditto	Miss Trevors	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– –	– –	35 16 –	6 18 –	– 15 –	28 3 –	9	3 2 $6\frac{1}{2}$	1 $2\frac{1}{4}$	1 7	$17\frac{5}{10}$	$10\frac{9}{10}$	Edward Armsden.
ditto	Mr. Atlee	52	7 –	18 4 –	2 – –	– –	– –	– –	20 4 –	2 12 –	– –	17 12 –	1	17 12 –	6 $9\frac{1}{4}$	3 $4\frac{3}{4}$	$37\frac{7}{10}$	$62\frac{5}{10}$	Thos. Sherwood.
road-maker	Surveyors of Roads	52	5 –	13 – –	– –	18 6 10	– –	– –	31 16 –	3 18 –	– –	27 18 –	4	6 19 6	2 $8\frac{1}{4}$	1 $8\frac{1}{2}$	19	$24\frac{8}{10}$	Edward Heaton.
jobbing	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	15 12 –	– –	– –	43 12 –	7 18 –	– –	35 14 –	9	3 19 4	1 $6\frac{1}{4}$	1 $6\frac{1}{4}$	$16\frac{9}{10}$	14	Thos. Brinkley.
ditto	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– –	– –	– –	28 – –	7 18 –	– –	20 2 –	3	6 14 –	2 7	2 7	$28\frac{7}{10}$	$23\frac{8}{10}$	Henry Eyres.
ditto	Mr. Oliver	52	8 –	20 16 –	2 – –	14 6 –	– –	– –	37 2 –	7 18 –	– –	29 4 –	8	3 13 –	1 $4\frac{3}{4}$	1 $10\frac{1}{2}$	$20\frac{8}{10}$	$12\frac{8}{10}$	William Sear.
carter	Mr. Martindale	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– –	– 10 –	– –	25 18 –	6 10 –	– –	19 8 –	2	9 14 –	3 $8\frac{3}{4}$	3 $8\frac{3}{4}$	$41\frac{4}{10}$	$34\frac{4}{10}$	John Dale.
jobbing	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	2 12 –	– 10 –	– –	31 2 –	6 10 –	– –	24 12 –	3	8 4 –	3 2	4 $8\frac{3}{4}$	$52\frac{5}{10}$	$29\frac{2}{10}$	John Carr.
ditto	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	2 12 –	– 10 –	– –	31 2 –	6 10 –	– –	24 12 –	3	8 4 –	3 2	4 $8\frac{3}{4}$	$52\frac{5}{10}$	$29\frac{2}{10}$	William Gurney.
ditto	Mr. Gibbons	52	8 –	20 16 –	1 – –	5 4 –	– 10 –	– –	27 10 –	7 18 –	– –	19 12 –	4	4 18 –	1 $10\frac{1}{2}$	4 $5\frac{1}{2}$	$49\frac{5}{10}$	$17\frac{3}{10}$	Thomas Sharp.
ditto	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– –	– 10 –	– –	28 10 –	7 18 –	– –	20 12 –	3	6 17 4	2 $7\frac{3}{4}$	2 $7\frac{3}{4}$	$29\frac{4}{10}$	$24\frac{4}{10}$	R. Washington
ditto	Miss Trevors	52	8 –	20 16 –	1 – –	– –	– –	– –	21 16 –	2 12 –	– –	19 4 –	1	19 4 –	7 $4\frac{1}{2}$	7 $4\frac{1}{2}$	$81\frac{8}{10}$	68	Thomas Harris.
ditto	Mr. Smith	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	26 4 –	– –	– –	51 12 –	7 8 –	– –	44 4 –	9	4 8 5	1 $8\frac{1}{2}$	1 6	$16\frac{6}{10}$	$15\frac{7}{10}$	Robert Hilyard.
				674 8 –	47 10 –	198 8 –	4 10 –	—	924 16 –	192 4 –	1 10 –	731 2 –	149	4 18 $1\frac{1}{2}$	1 $10\frac{1}{2}$	2 1	$23\frac{1}{10}$	$17\frac{3}{10}$	

149 persons.

work amounted collectively in 1834 to £. 725. 6.; the wages of their wives and children collectively amounted in 1834 to £. 176. 2.; total income in 1834, £. 901. 8.; the outgoings for rent and fuel for these 130 per week, which 2 *s.* 1 *d.* would buy $23\frac{1}{10}$ pints of wheat, at the average price of wheat (46 *s.* 2 *d.* per quarter) in 1834.

outgoings for rent, fuel and benefit clubs, in 1837 amounted to £. 193. 14., leaving a net income, applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries for these 149 persons in 1837 of £. 731. 2.; that is

10 per cent.; and in the means their income gave them to purchase wheat, from $23\frac{1}{10}$ pints in 1834, to $17\frac{3}{10}$ pints per head in 1837. Their condition has, therefore, become much worse while the new Poor Law has

whose income, notwithstanding the increased number of workers, had fallen from an average of $2\frac{3}{4}$ (equal to $2\frac{6}{10}$ pints of wheat) per head per day in 1834, to $2\frac{1}{4}$ (equal to $1\frac{7}{10}$ pints of wheat) per head per day in 1837; persons, only $2\frac{5}{8}$ *d.* (equal to two pints of wheat) per head per day.

APPENDIX (B.)—A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, showing the CONDITION of THIRTY MEN belonging to the Parish of *Westoning*,

NAME of LABOURER.	Age of Labourer in 1834.	Work employed on in 1834.	Wife or not.	Children living with Parents.	Age of the oldest.	Age of the youngest.	Number of Weeks employed in 1834.	Rate of Wages per Week.	Amount of Wages of Labourer at his Employment in 1834.	Additional for Harvests.	Amount of Earnings of Labourer's Wife and Children.	Additional for Gleaning.	Allowance from Parish for Work and Relief for Labourer and his Family.	Total Income of Family.	Outgoings for Rent and Fuel.	Net Income applicable for Food, Clothing, Soap, Candles and other Necessaries.	Number of Persons in Family.	Average Income per Head for the Year 1834.	Average Income per Head per Week for the Year 1834.
								s. d.	£. *s. d.*	£. *s. d.*	£. *s. d.*	£. *s. d.*		£. *s. d.*	£. *s. d.*	£. *s. d.*		£. *s. d.*	*s. d.*
John Cook	38	thresher	wife	2	6	2	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	7 16 –	– – –	– – –	33 4 –	6 18 –	26 6 –	4	6 11 6	2 6¼
George King	42	shepherd	wife	6	18	6	52	9 –	23 8 –	– – –	18 4 –	– – –	– – –	31 12 –	6 18 –	34 14 –	8	4 6 9	1 8
Joseph Bunker	39	thresher	wife	4	10	1	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	28 – –	6 18 –	21 2 –	6	3 10 4	1 4¼
Thomas Bunyan	57	ditto	wife	4	15	6	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	3 18 –	– – –	– – –	29 6 –	6 18 –	22 8 –	5	4 9 7	1 8¼
William Bunker	36	carter	wife	5	10	1	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	– – –	30 12 –	6 18 –	23 14 –	7	3 7 8½	1 3½
Crawley Bonner	63	shepherd	wife	–	–	–	52	8 –	20 16 –	– – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	21 6 –	6 10 –	14 6 –	2	7 8 –	2 10¼
John Bass	33	jobbing	wife	3	5	1	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	25 18 –	6 10 –	19 8 –	5	3 17 7	1 6
Richard Pedder	23	ditto	wife	2	3	1	52	8 –	20 16 –	2 – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	25 8 –	6 18 –	18 10 –	4	4 12 6	1 9¼
William Guisley	39	thresher	wife	4	15	5	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	7 16 –	– – –	– – –	33 4 –	6 18 –	26 6 –	6	4 7 8	1 8¼
Jesse Guisley	16	shepherd	– –	–	–	–	52	3 6	9 2 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	9 2 –	2 12 –	6 10 –	1	6 10 –	2 5½
Richard Gurney	27	jobbing	wife	–	–	–	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	28 10 –	6 18 –	21 12 –	2	10 16 –	4 1¼
William Hyde	38	dairyman	wife	5	17	1	52	9 –	23 8 –	– – –	14 6 –	– – –	– – –	37 14 –	7 18 –	29 16 –	7	4 5 1½	1 7¼
Jos. Gurney	24	jobbing	– –	–	–	–	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	28 – –	3 18 –	24 2 –	1	24 2 –	9 3¼
Thomas Gates	41	thresher	wife	3	9	1	52	12 –	31 – –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	– – –	38 8 –	6 18 –	31 10 –	5	6 6 –	2 5
William Bunyan	30	jobbing	wife	3	6	1	52	8 –	20 16 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	– – –	28 – –	6 18 –	21 2 –	5	4 4 5	1 7¼
Henry Hyde	42	carter	wife	–	–	–	52	8 –	20 16 –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	23 6 –	6 10 –	16 16 –	2	8 8 –	3 2¾
Peter Chance	36	jobbing	wife	3	8	1	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	10 8 –	– – –	– – –	38 8 –	6 18 –	31 10 –	5	6 6 –	2 5
Edward Armsden	41	ditto	wife	5	19	1	52	8 –	23 8 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– – –	– – –	35 16 –	6 18 –	28 18 –	7	4 2 7	1 7
Thomas Sherwood	18	ditto	– –	–	–	–	52	4 –	10 8 –	1 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	11 8 –	2 12 –	8 16 –	1	8 16 –	3 4¾
Edward Heaton	63	roadmaker	wife	3	14	10	52	5 –	13 – –	2 – –	13 – –	– – –	– – –	26 – –	3 18 –	22 2 –	5	4 8 5	1 8½
Thomas Brinkley	40	jobbing	wife	7	16	1	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	15 12 –	– – –	– – –	43 12 –	7 18 –	35 14 –	9	3 19 4	1 6¼
Henry Eyres	42	ditto	wife	1	11	11	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	28 – –	7 18 –	20 2 –	3	6 14 –	2 7
William Scar	40	ditto	wife	4	13	1	52	8 –	20 16 –	2 – –	14 6 –	– – –	– – –	37 2 –	7 18 –	29 4 –	6	4 17 4	1 10⅜
John Dale	34	carter	wife	–	–	–	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	25 18 –	6 10 –	19 8 –	2	9 14 –	3 8¼
John Carr	23	jobbing	wife	–	–	–	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	2 12 –	– 10 –	– – –	31 2 –	6 10 –	24 12 –	2	12 6 –	4 8¾
William Gurney	33	ditto	wife	–	–	–	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	2 12 –	– 10 –	– – –	31 2 –	6 10 –	24 12 –	2	12 6 –	4 8¾
Thomas Sharp	63	ditto	– –	2	24	20	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– 10 –	– – –	31 2 –	6 10 –	24 12 –	2	12 6 –	4 8¼
Rich. Washington	28	ditto	wife	1	6	6	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	28 10 –	7 18 –	20 12 –	3	6 17 4	2 7¾
Thomas Harris	67	ditto	– –	–	–	–	52	8 –	20 16 –	1 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	21 16 –	2 12 –	19 4 –	1	19 4 –	7 4½
Robert Hilyard	39	ditto	wife	9	19	1	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	24 14 –	– – –	– – –	50 2 –	7 8 –	42 14 –	11	3 17 7½	1 6
									677 6 –	48 – –	171 12 –	4 10 –	—	901 8 –	192 4 –	709 4 –	130	5 9 1	2 1

This Table shows, that in 1834 the 30 husbandmen named in it, together with their wives and children, numbered 130 persons; and that in 1837 the 30 husbandmen, together with their wives and children, numbered persons in 1834 amounted to £. 192. 4.; leaving a net income, applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries, of £. 709. 4.; that is, an average of £. 5. 9. 1. per head per annum, or 2 *s.* 1 *d.* per head

The wages these 30 men received for their work in 1837 amounted collectively to £. 721. 18.; the wages of their wives and children, collectively amounted in 1837 to £. 202. 18.; total income, £. 924. 16. The £. 4. 18. 1½. per head per annum, or 1 *s.* 10½ *d.* per head per week, which 1 *s.* 10½ *d.* per head would purchase 17 3/10 pints of wheat, at the average price of wheat (55 *s.* 9 *d.* per quarter) during the year 1837.

The average income of these 30 independent labourers in full employment, and of their wives and children, has been reduced from 2 *s.* 1 *d.* per head per week in 1834 to 1 *s.* 10½ *d.* per head per week in 1837, or been in operation.

And this Table shows further, that there are 10 of these labourers who, with wives and children, numbered 64 persons in 1834, and 78 persons in 1837 (above one-half the number of the persons included in the Table) a reduction in these small means of 32 per cent. In the latter year, the lowest family, consisting of seven persons, had for subsistence only 1¾ *d.* (equal to 1 3/10 pints of wheat), and the highest family, consisting of nine

IX (B.)—A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, showing the CONDITION of THIRTY MEN belonging to the Parish of *Westoning*,

Rate of Wages per Week.	Amount of Wages of Labourer at his Employment in 1834.	Additional for Harvests.	Amount of Earnings of Labourer's Wife and Children.	Additional for Gleaning.	Allowance from Parish for Work and Relief for Labourer and his Family.	Total Income of Family.	Outgoings for Rent and Fuel.	Net Income applicable for Food, Clothing, Soap, Candles and other Necessaries.	Number of Persons in Family.	Average Income per Head for the Year 1834.	Average Income per Head per Week for the Year 1834.
s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		£. s. d.	s. d.
9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	7 16 –	– – –	– – –	33 4 –	6 18 –	26 6 –	4	6 11 6	2 6¼
9 –	23 8 –	– – –	18 4 –	– – –	– – –	31 12 –	6 18 –	34 14 –	8	4 6 9	1 8
9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	28 – –	6 18 –	21 2 –	6	3 10 4	1 4¼
9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	3 18 –	– – –	– – –	29 6 –	6 18 –	22 8 –	5	4 9 7	1 8¼
9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	– – –	30 12 –	6 18 –	23 14 –	7	3 7 8½	1 3½
8 –	20 16 –	– – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	21 6 –	6 10 –	14 6 –	2	7 8 –	2 10¼
9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	25 18 –	6 10 –	19 8 –	5	3 17 7	1 6
8 –	20 16 –	2 – –	2 12 –	– – –	– – –	25 8 –	6 18 –	18 10 –	4	4 12 6	1 9¼
9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	7 16 –	– – –	– – –	33 4 –	6 18 –	26 6 –	6	4 7 8	1 8¼
3 6	9 2 –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	9 2 –	2 12 –	6 10 –	1	6 10 –	2 5½
10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	28 10 –	6 18 –	21 12 –	2	10 16 –	4 1¾
9 –	23 8 –	– – –	14 6 –	– – –	– – –	37 14 –	7 18 –	29 16 –	7	4 5 1½	1 7¾
10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	28 – –	3 18 –	24 2 –	1	24 2 –	9 3¼
12 –	31 – –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	– – –	38 8 –	6 18 –	31 10 –	5	6 6 –	2 5
8 –	20 16 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– – –	– – –	28 – –	6 18 –	21 2 –	5	4 4 5	1 7¼
8 –	20 16 –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	23 6 –	6 10 –	16 16 –	2	8 8 –	3 2¾
10 –	26 – –	2 – –	10 8 –	– – –	– – –	38 8 –	6 18 –	31 10 –	5	6 6 –	2 5
8 –	23 8 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– – –	– – –	35 16 –	6 18 –	28 18 –	7	4 2 7	1 7
4 –	10 8 –	1 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	11 8 –	2 12 –	8 16 –	1	8 16 –	3 4¾
5 –	13 – –	2 – –	13 – –	– – –	– – –	26 – –	3 18 –	22 2 –	5	4 8 5	1 8½
10 –	26 – –	2 – –	15 12 –	– – –	– – –	43 12 –	7 18 –	35 14 –	9	3 19 4	1 6¼
10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	28 – –	7 18 –	20 2 –	3	6 14 –	2 7
8 –	20 16 –	2 – –	14 6 –	– – –	– – –	37 2 –	7 18 –	29 4 –	6	4 17 4	1 10½
9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	25 18 –	6 10 –	19 8 –	2	9 14 –	3 8¾
10 –	26 – –	2 – –	2 12 –	– 10 –	– – –	31 2 –	6 10 –	24 12 –	2	12 6 –	4 8¾
10 –	26 – –	2 – –	2 12 –	– 10 –	– – –	31 2 –	6 10 –	24 12 –	2	12 6 –	4 8¾
9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– 10 –	– – –	31 2 –	7 18 –	23 4 –	3	11 12 –	4 5½
10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– – –	– 10 –	– – –	28 10 –	7 18 –	20 12 –	3	6 17 4	2 7¾
8 –	20 16 –	1 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	21 16 –	2 12 –	19 4 –	1	19 4 –	7 4½
9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	24 14 –	– – –	– – –	50 2 –	7 8 –	42 14 –	11	3 17 7½	1 6
	677 6 –	48 – –	171 12 –	4 10 –	—	901 8 –	192 4 –	709 4 –	130	5 9 1	2 1

it, together with their wives and children, numbered 130 persons; and that in 1837 the 30 husbandmen, together with their wives and children, numbered

in, who lost four weeks' work, from sickness or some other cause) in both years, and received no parish relief in either year. The wages they received for their plicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessaries, of £. 709. 4.; that is, an average of £. 5. 9. 1. per head per annum, or 2 *s.* 1 *d.* per head

unted collectively to £. 721. 18.; the wages of their wives and children, collectively amounted in 1837 to £. 202. 18.; total income, £. 924. 16. The , which 1 *s.* 10 ½ *d.* per head would purchase 17 $\frac{3}{10}$ pints of wheat, at the average price of wheat (55 *s.* 9 *d.* per quarter) during the year 1837.

employment, and of their wives and children, has been reduced from 2 *s.* 1 *d.* per head per week in 1834 to 1 *s.* 10 ½ *d.* per head per week in 1837, or

ing th rers who, with wives and children, numbered 64 persons in 1834, and 78 persons in 1837 (above one-half the number of the persons included in the Table) the lowest family, consisting of seven persons, had for subsistence only 1 ¾ *d.* (equal to 1 $\frac{3}{10}$ pints of wheat), and the highest family, consisting of nine

in the AMPTHILL UNION, whose Employment has been regular, for the Years 1834 and 1837. (*Vide* Quest. 8342.)

Work employed on in 1837.	Name of Employer in 1837.	Number of Weeks employed	Rate of Wages per Week.	Amount of Wages of Labourer at his Employment.	Additional for Harvests.	Earnings of Labourer's Wife and Children.	Additional for Gleaning.	Allowance from Parish.	Total Income of Family.	Outgoings for Rent and Fuel.	Outgoings for Benefit Clubs.	Net Income applicable for Food, Clothing, Soap, Candles, and other Necessaries.	Number of Persons in Family.
			s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
thresher	Mr. Williamson	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	6 10 –	– –	– –	31 18 –	6 18 –	– –	25 – –	5
shepherd	Mr. Sear	52	8 –	20 16 –	– –	15 12 –	– –	– –	36 8 –	6 18 –	– –	29 10 –	8
thresher	Mr. Bowsted	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	7 16 –	– –	– –	33 4 –	6 18 –	– –	26 6 –	7
ditto	Mr. Bowsted	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	7 16 –	– –	– –	33 4 –	6 18 –	– –	26 6 –	5
carter	Mr. Smith	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– –	– –	35 16 –	6 18 –	– 15 –	28 3 –	8
shepherd	Mr. Hawley	52	7 –	18 4 –	– –	– –	– 10 –	– –	18 14 –	6 10 –	– –	12 4 –	2
jobbing	Mr. Sear	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– –	– 10 –	– –	25 18 –	6 10 –	– –	19 8 –	6
ditto	Mr. Martindale	48	8 –	19 4 –	1 10 –	5 4 –	– –	– –	25 18 –	6 18 –	– –	19 – –	7
thresher	Mr. Oliver	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– –	– –	35 16 –	6 18 –	– –	28 18 –	6
shepherd	Mr. Oliver	52	5 –	13 – –	– –	– –	– –	– –	13 – –	2 12 –	– –	10 8 –	1
jobbing	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– –	– 10 –	– –	28 10 –	6 18 –	– –	21 12 –	3
dairyman	Mr. Sear	52	8 –	20 16 –	– –	14 6 –	– –	– –	35 2 –	7 18 –	– –	27 4 –	9
jobbing	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– –	– –	– –	28 – –	3 18 –	– –	24 2 –	2
thresher	Mr. Sear	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– –	– –	35 16 –	6 18 –	– –	28 18 –	6
jobbing	Mr. Muckleton	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	5 4 –	– –	– –	30 12 –	6 18 –	– –	23 14 –	7
carter	Mr. Sole	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– –	– 10 –	– –	25 18 –	6 10 –	– –	19 8 –	2
jobbing	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	9 2 –	– –	– –	37 2 –	6 18 –	– –	30 4 –	6
ditto	Miss Trevors	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	10 8 –	– –	– –	35 16 –	6 18 –	– 15 –	28 3 –	9
ditto	Mr. Atlee	52	7 –	18 4 –	2 – –	– –	– –	– –	20 4 –	2 12 –	– –	17 12 –	1
road-maker	Surveyors of Roads	52	5 –	13 – –	– –	18 6 10	– –	– –	31 16 –	3 18 –	– –	27 18 –	4
jobbing	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	15 12 –	– –	– –	43 12 –	7 18 –	– –	35 14 –	9
ditto	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– –	– –	– –	28 – –	7 18 –	– –	20 2 –	3
ditto	Mr. Oliver	52	8 –	20 16 –	2 – –	14 6 –	– –	– –	37 2 –	7 18 –	– –	29 4 –	8
carter	Mr. Martindale	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– –	– 10 –	– –	25 18 –	6 10 –	– –	19 8 –	2
jobbing	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	2 12 –	– 10 –	– –	31 2 –	6 10 –	– –	24 12 –	3
ditto	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	2 12 –	– 10 –	– –	31 2 –	6 10 –	– –	24 12 –	3
ditto	Mr. Gibbons	52	8 –	20 16 –	1 – –	5 4 –	– 10 –	– –	27 10 –	7 18 –	– –	19 12 –	4
ditto	Miss Trevors	52	10 –	26 – –	2 – –	– –	– 10 –	– –	28 10 –	7 18 –	– –	20 12 –	3
ditto	Miss Trevors	52	8 –	20 16 –	1 – –	– –	– –	– –	21 16 –	2 12 –	– –	19 4 –	1
ditto	Mr. Smith	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	26 4 –	– –	– –	51 12 –	7 8 –	– –	44 4 –	9
				674 8 –	47 10 –	198 8 –	4 10 –	—	924 16 –	192 4 –	1 10 –	731 2 –	149

149 persons.

work amounted collectively in 1834 to £. 725. 6.; the wages of their wives and children collectively amounted in 1834 to £. 176. 2.; total income in 1834, per week, which 2*s*. 1 *d*. would buy 23 $\frac{1}{10}$ pints of wheat, at the average price of wheat (46*s*. 2 *d*. per quarter) in 1834.

outgoings for rent, fuel and benefit clubs, in 1837 amounted to £. 193. 14., leaving a net income, applicable for food, clothing, soap, candles and other necessari

10 per cent.; and in the means their income gave them to purchase wheat, from 23 $\frac{1}{10}$ pints in 1834, to 17 $\frac{3}{10}$ pints per head in 1837. Their condition has, ther

whose income, notwithstanding the increased number of workers, had fallen from an average of 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ (equal to 2 $\frac{6}{10}$ pints of wheat) per head per day in 1834, to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ persons, only 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ *d*. (equal to two pints of wheat) per head per day.

Appendix.

Dietary in the Workhouse of the Parish of St. George, Hanover Square.

THE GENERAL DIETARY.

Dietary.	Breakfast.		Dinner.				Supper.	
	Bread.	Gruel.	Beef.	Potatoes.	Soup.	Pudding, Suet.	Cheese.	Broth.
	oz.	*pints.*	*oz.*	*lb.*	*pints.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*pints.*
Sunday	12	1½	5	½	-	-	-	1½
Monday	12	1½	-	-	1½	-	2	
Tuesday	12	1½	5	½	-	-	-	1½
Wednesday	12	1½	-	-	1½	-	2	
Thursday	12	1½	5	½	-	-	-	1½
Friday	8	1½	-	-	-	14	2	
Saturday	12	1½	-	-	1½	-	2	

INFIRM DIETARY.

Dietary.	Breakfast.		Dinner.				Supper.	
	Bread.	Gruel.	Mutton.	Potatoes.	Soup.	Rice Pudding.	Cheese.	Broth.
	oz.	*pints.*	*oz.*	*lb.*	*pints*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*pints.*
Sunday	10	1½	5	½	-	-	-	1½
Monday	10	1½	-	-	1½	-	2	
Tuesday	10	1½	5	½	-	-	-	1½
Wednesday	10	1½	-	-	1½	-	2	
Thursday	10	1½	5	½	-	-	-	1½
Friday	10	1½	-	-	-	10	2	
Saturday	10	1½	-	-	1½	-	2	

DIETARY FOR CHILDREN,

from 3 to 10 Years of Age.

Dietary.	Breakfast.		Dinner.			Supper.
	Bread.	Milk.	Mutton.	Potatoes.	Rice Pudding.	Milk.
	oz.	*pints.*	*oz.*	*lb.*	*oz.*	*pints.*
Sunday	12	½	2½	½	-	½
Monday	12	½	-	-	Suet 7	½
Tuesday	12	½	2½	½	-	½
Wednesday	12	½	-	-	Rice 7	½
Thursday	12	½	2½	½	-	½
Friday	12	½	-	-	Suet 7	½
Satuday	12	½	-	-	Rice 7	½

DIETARY FOR CHILDREN,

Between 1 and 3 Years of Age.

Dietary.	Breakfast.		Dinner.		Supper.
	Bread.	Milk.	Pudding.	Mutton Broth, with Rice.	Milk.
	oz.	*pints.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*pints.*
Sunday	10	½	-	12	½
Monday	10	½	Suet 5	-	½
Tuesday	10	½	-	12	½
Wednesday	10	½	Rice 7	-	½
Thursday	10	½	-	12	½
Friday	10	½	Suet 5	-	½
Saturday	10	½	-	12	½

RETURN of DEPOSITIONS, and COMMITMENT of *Amos Wheeler* and *John Chapman*, of *Ampthill*, on the 21st December 1837, and of *John Money*, in January 1838. Appendix.

(Copy.)

BEDFORDSHIRE (to wit).

THE information and complaint of John Kingston, of Millbrook, in the county of Bedford, labourer, made upon oath before me, the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said county, on the seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, who saith, that on the twenty-eighth day of November last, at the parish of Millbrook, in the said county, Amos Wheeler and John Chapman, both of the parish of Millbrook, in the said county, labourers, did unlawfully steal parts of certain oak, ash and elm trees, then and there growing, of the value of one shilling, the property of Henry Richard Vassall Fox, Lord Holland, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided: and thereupon the said John Kingston prayeth judgment of me, the Justice aforesaid, in the premises.

(signed) *John Kingston.*

Taken and sworn before me,
(signed) *George Musgrave.*

(Copy.)

John Kingston *v.* John Chapman and Amos Wheeler, stealing parts of certain Oak, Ash and Elm Trees.

JOHN KINGSTON, of Millbrook, labourer, sworn, says, "On the twenty-eighth day of November last I saw John Chapman and Amos Wheeler getting wood out of some oak, ash and elm trees in a plantation called the Ring Fence, in Millbrook parish, the property of Lord Holland; I spoke to them. They carried away with them two large bundles of the wood they had cut of the value of a shilling, at the least. I knew them to be John Chapman and Amos Wheeler, of Millbrook. I saw them in the plantation for half an hour. I believe it was a little saw they had cutting out the wood."

(signed) *John Kingston.*

Taken in the presence and hearing of the said
John Chapman and Amos Wheeler, the
21st day of December 1837, before us,

George Musgrave, } Two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the county
Henry M. Musgrave, } of Bedford.

Defence:—Amos Wheeler says, "It was no green wood; it was only a little rotten wood."
John Chapman says, "I had no firing, and I had a wife and child at home; I am twenty-two, and have been married three years."

Wheeler convicted:— Penalty and damage and costs 4*l.* 11*s.*, to be paid immediately, or to be committed to new House of Correction two calendar months; hard labour. Committed same day.

Chapman convicted:—Penalty, damage and costs 9*s.* 6*d.*; to be paid within one month, or to be committed to new House of Correction one calendar month; hard labour. Committed first February one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

Memoranda of Convictions of Amos Wheeler 1833—1837.

1833:	October 10 - - -	Stealing fruit, growing.
1834:	March 27 - - -	Under the Game Laws.
	September 18 - -	Under the Game Laws.
1835:	March 5 - - -	Under the Game Laws.
1836:	March 17 - - -	Stealing part of a tree.
	December 29 - -	Stealing parts of trees.
1837:	December 21 - -	Stealing parts of trees.

N.B.- The before-mentioned John Chapman, who is stated to be a shoemaker, was again committed to prison on the eighteenth of April one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight for trial, for stealing part of a cart harness.

(Copy.)

BEDFORDSHIRE (to wit).

BE it Remembered, That on the twenty-first day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, at Ampthill, John Chapman, of Millbrook, in the county of Bedford, labourer, is convicted before us, George Musgrave, esquire, and Henry Musgrave Musgrave, esquire, two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said county,

Appendix.

county, for that he the said John Chapman did, on the twenty-eighth day of November last, at the parish of Millbrook, in the said county, unlawfully steal parts of certain oak, ash and elm trees, then and there growing, of the value of one shilling, the property of Henry Richard Vassall Fox, Lord Holland, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided: and we, the said Justices, adjudge the said John Chapman for his said offence (the same being his first offence) to forfeit and pay the sum of two shillings and sixpence over and above the value of the article so stolen as aforesaid, and for the value of the said article so stolen the further sum of one shilling, and also to pay the sum of seven shillings for costs; and in default of payment of the said sums within one month, to be imprisoned in the new House of Correction at Bedford, in and for the said county, and kept to hard labour for the space of one calendar month, unless the said sums shall be sooner paid; and we direct that the said sum of two shillings and sixpence shall be immediately paid to one of the overseers of the poor of the same parish, and in which the said offence was committed, to be by him applied according to the directions of the statute in that case made and provided; and that the said sum of one shilling shall be immediately paid to the said Henry Richard Vassall Fox, Lord Holland, the party aggrieved by the said offence, who has not been examined in proof of the same; and we do order that the said sum of seven shillings for costs shall be immediately paid to John Kingston, the complainant.

Given under our hands and seals the day and year first above mentioned.

(signed) *George Musgrave* (L.S.)
Henry M. Musgrave (L.S.)

I certify this is a true copy of the original conviction now filed in my office.

Thos. Pearse,
Clerk of the Peace for the County of Bedford.

(Copy.)

BEDFORDSHIRE (to wit).

BE it Remembered, That on the twenty-first day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, at Ampthill, Amos Wheeler, of Millbrook, in the county of Bedford, labourer, is convicted before us, George Musgrave, esquire, and Henry Musgrave Musgrave, esquire, two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said county, for that he the said Amos Wheeler did, on the twenty-eighth day of November last, at the parish of Millbrook, in the said county, unlawfully steal parts of certain oak, ash and elm trees, then and there growing, of the value of one shilling, the property of Henry Richard Vassall Fox, Lord Holland, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided: and we, the said Justices, adjudge the said Amos Wheeler for his said offence (the same being his first offence) to forfeit and pay the sum of four pounds over and above the value of the article so stolen as aforesaid, and for the value of the said article so stolen the further sum of one shilling, and also to pay the sum of ten shillings for costs; and in default of immediate payment of the said sums, to be imprisoned in the new House of Correction at Bedford, in and for the said county, and kept to hard labour for the space of two calendar months, unless the said sums shall be sooner paid: and we direct that the said sum of four pounds shall be immediately paid to one of the overseers of the poor of the same parish, and in which the said offence was committed, to be by him applied according to the directions of the statute in that case made and provided; and that the said sum of one shilling shall be immediately paid to the said Henry Richard Vassall Fox, Lord Holland, the party aggrieved by the said offence, who has not been examined in proof of the same; and I do order that the said sum of ten shillings for costs, shall be immediately paid to John Kingston, the complainant.

Given under our hands and seals the day and year first above mentioned.

(signed) *George Musgrave.*
Henry M. Musgrave.

I certify this is a true copy of the original conviction now filed in my office.

Thos. Pearse,
Clerk of the Peace for the county of Bedford.

(Copy.)

BEDFORDSHIRE (to wit).

BE it Remembered, That within three calendar months after the commission of the offence hereinafter mentioned, [to wit] on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, at the parish of Shillington, in the said county of Bedford, Samuel Pilgrim, of the parish of Houghton Conquest, in the said county, game-keeper, in his proper person cometh before me, Henry Musgrave Musgrave, one of the Justices of our Lady the present Queen, assigned to keep the peace of our said Lady the Queen in and for the said county, and also to hear and determine divers felonies, trespasses and other misdemeanors committed within the said county, and now here giveth me, the said Justice, to understand and be informed, that John Money, of the parish of Ampthill, in the said county, did, on the thirtieth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight

eight hundred and thirty-seven, at the parish of Ampthill, in the said county, unlawfully take game, not being authorized so to do, for want of a game certificate, contrary to the statute in that case made and provided; whereby and by force of the said statute, he hath forfeited a sum of money, not exceeding five pounds, to be applied as the statutes in that behalf made and provided direct.

And thereupon the said Samuel Pilgrim prayeth that the said John Money may be summoned to appear before two of the Justices aforesaid, to answer the said information, and make his defence thereto.

The mark of × *Samuel Pilgrim.*

Exhibited before me the day and year first above written.
Henry M. Musgrave.

(Copy.)

BEDFORDSHIRE (to wit).

THE deposition of James Summerfield, of the parish of Millbrook, in the county of Bedford, labourer, taken upon oath this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, before me, Henry Musgrave Musgrave, Esquire, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the county of Bedford.

The said James Summerfield, upon his oath, saith as follows:—"On Saturday morning last, between seven and eight o'clock, I was watching a snare which was set in a quick hedge belonging to a garden in the parish of Ampthill, the property of Lord Holland; I saw John Money, of Ampthill, come through the fir trees near the garden, and along the side of the garden hedge, and stop when he got opposite the snare; there was a hare caught in the snare, and he went into the ditch, took the hare, broke the piece of quick to which the snare was tied, and ran off with the hare in his hand: I followed him, and he threw the hare down; I ran after him; and when I caught him, I told him I had been waiting for him; he made no reply.

The mark of × *James Summerfield.*

Taken upon oath the day and year above written, before me,
Henry M. Musgrave.

The mark of × *James Summerfield.*

Re-taken and re-sworn before us, this 4th day of January 1838, in the presence and hearing of John Money.

George Cardale, } Two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the
George Musgrave, } county of Bedford.

Defence:—"I have nothing to say; I know I did it."

Convicted:—Penalty and costs, 5*l.* 16*s.*; to be paid forthwith, or to be committed to new House of Correction three calendar months; hard labour. Committed same day.

Memoranda of Convictions of John Money 1833—1838.

1833:	March 21 - - -	Assault.
1835:	January 22 - - -	Under the Game Laws.
1836:	May 5 - - -	Stealing part of a tree.
	September 15 - -	Stealing a tree.
	December 29 - -	Under the Game Laws.
1838:	January 4 - - -	Under the Game Laws.

TWENTY-SIXTH AND TWENTY-SEVENTH

REPORTS

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIXES.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
4 *May* 1838.

[*Price* 8*d.*]

359.

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TWENTY-EIGHTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
8 *May* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

8 *May* 1838.

WITNESSES.

Mr. *James Turner* and Mr. *Mark Crabtree* - - p. 1

Mr. *John Marshall* - - - - - - p. 17

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Martis, 8° *die Maii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Langdale.
Mr. Chichester.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt.	Mr. Lister.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Walker.
Lord Howick.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *James Turner*, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *James Turner.*

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8626. *Chairman.*] WHAT tables have you to produce?—I made out the tables to the best of my judgment, for the parish of Westoning, and there seemed to be some little demur in thinking that we had chosen the worst parish; I have therefore taken three labourers not in constant work and three in constant work in each of six parishes; and in several instances having been recommended by farmers, and, in some instances, by the guardians of the parish, to take them as a fair sample of the labourers, I wish to put this table in; I will state what parishes they are from: the parishes of Cranfield, Shitlington, Flitwick, Lidlington, Milbrook and Maulden.

[*The same was delivered in:* Vide *Appendix*, No. 1 & No. 2.]

Mr. *Mark Crabtree*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *Mark Crabtree.*

8627. Mr. *Fielden.*] DID you accompany Mr. Turner down to Ampthill, in consequence of instructions that you and he received from me for that purpose?—I did.

8628. You have been present during the time that Mr. Turner has been examined by this Committee?—I have.

8629. Are you acquainted with the facts of the cases which he has gone over, and have you reason to believe that the statements which he has made are true, as far as you could ascertain the truth while you have been down at Ampthill?—As far as it is possible for any human being to ascertain, I believe it to be true.

8630. Have you, during your visit to Ampthill, gone into the cottages of many of those poor people?—We have, a great many.

8631. Have you had an opportunity of seeing how they were living at the time you were there; what their furniture was, what their bedding was, and had an opportunity of ascertaining that they were, as has been said by the Commissioner, steeped in deep poverty?—Yes, they are.

8632. Was there any particular cottage which you visited of which you could give a description of the furniture, of the number of the family, and of the means they had of living?—Yes. "Description of a cottage occupied by John Cooper, who worked for Mr. Overman, at Maulden, and has done for 20 years. The outside of the cottage, that is the outer wall, if it may be so called, is nearly down; the floor is a mud floor, with no tiles upon it; the window—there should be 32 diamond squares of glass, but there is only half that number. Furniture—there is a table of two boards and a piece, put together on four hedge-stakes; one chair, three stools and a coffer, which is an old chest; the bed is a fair one, laid upon straw, without a blanket, without a pillow, without a bolster; that is in the first bed-room: the second bed is a straw bed, part of it covered and part of it not;

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not; no blanket, no pillow, no bolster, no covering;" this is a description of one of the labourer's cottages.

8633. How many were there in the family of that labourer?—Nine.

8634. Were two beds the only beds that those nine had to sleep upon?—They were.

8635. Have you described the beds?—I have.

8636. What was one of them?—One of them was a hurdle, or something imitating a hurdle, as it is called in that country; it was a rail put upon two posts driven into the ground, and the ends are fastened to the wall, and the other ends nailed to this framing.

8637. And on this was laid straw for the inmates of this cottage to sleep upon?—Yes.

8638. Without any blankets?—Yes.

8639. Have you been a blanket maker?—Yes, I have.

8640. If the poor people of Bedfordshire could all obtain blankets that have not them, would it give a great impetus to the business you have been engaged in, and an increased demand?—It would; and I think if the agricultural labourers could be placed in a situation in which they would be able to consume our manufacture, it would give more employment for our labourers, and our labourers would be more able to get their loaf.

8641. Have you heard, while you have been down there, labourers state to you repeatedly, a great number of them, that their circumstances have been gradually growing worse since the Poor Law Amendment Act has passed?—They have.

8642. Their means of purchasing blankets, and their means of purchasing the necessaries of life, have been abridged in the same proportion?—They have; there is a general falling off in all their circumstances; and I am generally borne out in that by the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, who was asked, "Have you ever understood that persons have been under the necessity of selling their furniture, and stripping their cottage of its effects, before going into the workhouse?", and who states, "I have heard from pawnbrokers that a vast number of petty articles, particularly during the last winter, upon the cessation of labour, were brought to the pawn-shops." "Do you understand from the pawnbrokers that those articles were brought from the agricultural labourers?" "Yes."

8643. Those are the words of Mr. Adey in answer to that question?—Yes.

8644. Do your inquiries and examination of the state of the poor down in Ampthill confirm Mr. Adey's statement?—They do.

8645. You have mentioned the furniture in the cottage of one poor man; have you found a great many other cases during your peregrinations there, similar, or nearly so, to the one you have described?—I have.

8646. Is there any which you wish to refer to?—Yes; in the parish of Lidlington, John Robinson, has no work; in this house there is no tiled floor, it is part pebbled; the furniture consists of two chairs, a table, consisting of two boards put together on hedge-stakes, two saucepans, one tea-kettle, three plates, and two broken ones, two basins, two broken knives, one fork. In the bed-room up-stairs there are two bedsteads, two beds filled with straw, one blanket, two coverlets, two bolsters; in the bed-room down-stairs there are two beds on the ground floor filled with straw, no blankets, two coverlets; they have sold their furniture to buy bread with; they have pawned their clothes while they have scarcely any thing left; there are 14 individuals live in this cottage, six of them are grown-up persons; there are two families live in the cottage.

8647. *Chairman.*] What is the number in John Robinson's family?—Nine.

8648. Is that himself, his wife, and seven children?—Yes.

8649. What ages are the children?—I have not taken account of their ages.

8650. Will you state their ages as nearly as you can; how old do you suppose the eldest to be?—I should think 20.

8651. Is it a boy or a girl?—A girl.

8652. What is the age of the next?—I did not see the next.

8653. Is it a boy or a girl?—I cannot say; I took the number of the family, but not their ages.

8654. You cannot speak to the ages of the other children?—I cannot.

8655. Mr. *Fielden.*] You were describing this case in order to inform the Committee of the furniture in this house?—Yes.

8656. And the number of the family you took from the statement of those in the house?—Yes.

8657. Mr. *Miles.*] Did you inquire any thing as to the moral character of this Robinson?—I did not.

8658. Is not that a little looked to in administering relief to the poor, and a very essential point as to the means of getting employment, likewise?—In some instances it is.

8659. Supposing the man had married his present wife during the life-time of his former wife, should you say that he bore a very good character?—I should think not.

8660. Have you any reason to doubt this, which I find in the application and report-book: "John Robinson applies for himself, his wife, his daughter Elizabeth, aged fourteen; Ruth, ten; John, four and a half; and Mary, three and a half, and applies because he is out of work;" and there is this entry against him, "His case having been fully considered, the man having re-married during the life-time of his wife, this family is illegitimate, and relief must be applied for by the woman;" have you any reason to doubt that?—Not the least.

8661. And I find, after the thing is thoroughly investigated, he is offered relief in the workhouse; do you conceive that the workhouse is a proper receptacle, such as you would put persons into of not good moral character?—I think I should send them to prison, not to a workhouse.

8662. Mr. *Fielden.*] Notwithstanding the poverty of that man and his family, it appears that he prefers being at large in that miserable cottage, with that miserable fare, to going into the workhouse?—It appears so.

8663. Are there not a great number in the Union of Ampthill, who are exceedingly poor, but who have stated to you, over and over again, that they would not go into the workhouse, notwithstanding their poverty?—They have.

8664. Will you now mention the case of a man of the name of John Sissick?—I will give the description of his cottage; he has a wife and three children, his furniture consists of a piece of a chair, that is a broken one, a cradle, an old table of three boards, put together on hedge-stakes; a trough, as they call it, used for mixing up their bread; one saucepan, one plate, one knife and fork, with both hafts off.

8665. In what parish did he reside?—In the parish of Marston;—a tea-pot, one cup and a plate; he will be found to be a man of good character.

8666. And that is the miserable plight in which you found him, with regard to furniture?—It is.

8667. Do you know what the earnings of that man are, from any observations he made to you?—Nine shillings a week.

8668. Were his rent and fuel much the same as the rent and fuel of the other poor labourers in that parish?—They were.

8669. That small income is sufficient to satisfy you that these men cannot obtain either furniture, or that food which is necessary for labourers who have to perform hard work?—They cannot.

8670. *Chairman.*] What ages are the children?—The eldest is five, and the youngest, one.

8671. Mr. *Miles.*] At what does he work?—I do not know whether he was a dairy-man or a plougher; but he is what is called a labourer.

8672. Did he state what he had extra for harvest?—I did not see the man; his wife stated that he had 2*l.* extra for harvest; the master keeps him in his house when he is away, to take care of his master's property, and leaves his wife to take care of this valuable property of theirs.

8673. What sort of person is the wife?—She seemed a decent sort of woman.

8674. Does not the comfort of the cottage very much depend upon the wife?—There is a great deal of difference in that respect among the labourers.

8675. You found that with the same means, with the good housewife and a bad one, there is all the difference between comfort and discomfort?—Yes; there is that difference in men as well as in women.

8676. Mr. *Fielden.*] With the means this man possessed, as far as your information goes, are you of opinion that he could not by possibility procure those things which he ought to have for his furniture, and that food which he ought to have for his family?—He cannot; and his wife states that they have not half sufficient victuals, and it so happened that when I was going to take the inventory of the furniture, there was a farmer just saying to Mr. Turner and me, "Why I suppose you find the people better off than you expected to do; tell us how you are going on in this neighbourhood:" I said, "If you will go with me to this cottage,

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you will see how we have found a great many of them:" he went with me; the woman described to him, as she had done to me, their condition; and he looked at the bed and shook his head, for it happened to be straw loose on the bed, and there was an old sheet upon it, and she pulls it off, and the straw was coloured by the baby, the same as in a stable; and he shook his head, and said he could not have thought it, had he not seen it himself; that was on Friday; and the only provisions that were to last on till Saturday night were a piece of a loaf, and that of the coarsest sort; and the woman cried, because she did not know how she was to see Saturday night there.

8677. This was a farmer that accompanied you to the spot, in order to see what you had described to him?—It was.

8678. And he said, if he had not seen it, he should not have known that there was such distress as you witnessed?—He did say so.

8679. Have you reason to believe that many of the farmers in that neighbourhood do not know the state in which the poor of that neighbourhood are?—A great many acknowledged that they did not know that they were in the state, when we represented the case to them; for when we found a very hard case, we represented it to some of the farmers or to some of the tradespeople, and they said they never could have thought that there had been half the poverty in the neighbourhood, had it not been told to them; for we were very careful not to put a case of that sort down till we had it corroborated by some of the respectable inhabitants.

8680. If the farmers paid attention to the cottages of the poor, and their furniture and means of living, do you think that they would suffer them to remain as they are without representing their case, in order to obtain redress for them?—No; if they looked after them as they should look after them; their case should be represented somewhere, I am sure.

8681. *Chairman.*] John Sissick is a labourer; his wages are 9*s.*, with 2*l.* extra for harvest?—Yes.

8682. Does he earn extra wages at any other time of the year besides harvest; for mowing grass, or at any other season?—I am not aware.

8683. Do you know whether it is the custom in that part of the country to mow grass by measure?—I believe it is, in some instances.

8684. Do they not in that work earn more than in their daily labour?—Some do.

8685. Did you say that, besides 9 *s.*, he was in the occasional habit of going to the farmer's house?—He worked at the farmer's house.

8686. Does he ever lodge at the farmer's house?—He does.

8687. How often in a week do you suppose that he does?—His wife states that he often stops three or four nights in a week.

8688. When he passes three or four nights a week at the farmer's house, does he receive any thing from the farmer besides his lodging?—The wife states to us that he does not, when he stops there; there are two cupboards; that he takes his proportionate share of victuals with him, and leaves the rest at home.

8689. Does he get any victuals at the farmer's house?—She states that he does not.

8690. Then he merely lodges there?—Yes.

8691. What is the name of the farmer for whom that man works?—I have not got it here.

8692. Have you any means of giving the Committee the name of the farmer?—I have not.

8693. Did you see the farmer yourself?—No.

8694. You made no inquiry as to whether the man got any victuals during the four nights in the week that he stopped at the farmer's house?—No; after hearing the statement of the woman, we took it for granted that it was so.

8695. Did you ask the man as to the fact?—I never saw the man.

8696. And you never saw the farmer?—No.

8697. And you make this statement entirely upon what you heard from the woman?—Yes.

8698. Mr. *Miles.*] I understand you to say, that if the farmers knew the condition of the people, they would probably take means to better their condition?—I think so.

8699. Who generally constitute the board of guardians in an agricultural district?—Some are farmers and some are tradesmen.

8700. Do

8700. Do not you think that they are the very persons who should be put as a board of control with a view of determining the situation of different parties whom they have under their control, and at the same time of determining the amount of relief that they should receive?—Yes, if the guardians do justice.

8701. Did you understand any thing of the operation of the old law in agricultural parishes?—Not in the agricultural parishes, I did not.

8702. Do you think that the relief can be better left to the discretion of the farmers resident in the parish in which they are, than it can be left to the old overseer under the old law?—I think it was very likely that the old overseers, if the parishes had their affairs in their own hands, would know their circumstances a great deal better than they are known now; for it so happens, that cases have been brought before the board at Ampthill by some of the guardians from the very parish, representing the case as a very hard case, and the chairman has said he could not put it to grant out-door relief.

8703. Were you present at the board?—I heard one of the guardians say so.

8704. What is the name of that guardian?—His name is Mossman, of Maulden.

8705. So that, evidently, the cases of the poor are not only represented by the guardians, but means are brought forward as to particular modes of relief by the guardians?—The guardian said that there were several cases then before the board; that was on the Friday, and the board day had been the day before; and that he is sure that if they had been put to the vote, there would have been a majority in favour of granting out-door relief to them; but the chairman, Mr. Overman, could not put it, or did not put it, as I understood Mr. Mossman; and so convinced was Mr. Overman of the distress of one family, that he himself gave the man 2*s.* 6*d.*, and said he was sorry for him, but he could not open the door to those cases.

8706. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you think that if this poor man had been under the overseer, as they were before the law was passed, he would have obtained some relief out of the workhouse?—He would.

8707. His children would have entitled him to relief, according to the system that was pursued in Ampthill some years ago?—They would.

8708. You have been asked about mowing, whether they do not earn something in the mowing harvest; you are aware that mowing is very hard work?—Yes.

8709. That men, to follow it up with great diligence, require a great deal more nourishment than at other times?—Yes.

8710. Do you think that any thing additional earned in the mowing harvest would do more than sustain nature in that difficult work?—I have heard it said to me that it would not; that the men required more provisions during the time of mowing, and the extra wages given to them they consumed in that way.

8711. Mr. *Barneby.*] Is it the custom of the country for the farmers to give their labourers at that time any victuals?—I believe it is in some farms.

8712. That would be an addition to the sustenance they would receive by their wages alone?—Some little, it would.

8713. Mr. *Fielden.*] You said that the wife of this man stated that he took with him his proportionate share of victuals; did she give you any idea how the shares were allotted to the different branches of the family?—She said she could not describe how they managed to eke out the week; it was impossible for her to describe how they did live during the week.

8714. Did you make any inquiry as to the food on which those poor people live in the Ampthill Union, in the houses you have visited?—We did.

8715. Will you describe it, and the quantity they have?—The labourers, particularly those who have large families,—their living is chiefly on bread and potatoes.

8716. Do they have a sufficiency or not a sufficiency of that food?—They said that they had not a sufficiency.

8717. Have you seen many of the labourers yourself, while you have been down in Ampthill; and can you speak to the appearance of those labourers, as to whether they appear to be in health and strength, fit for labouring people to be?—I think, and I am sure, that if they had more support, they would be able to do a better day's work; for some of their wives have expressed, with tears in their eyes, and said, "If you would wait till my master comes home at night, you would almost fancy that he was drunk, for he staggers at night when he has been working

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hard during the day, and has not sufficient to support nature, just as though he was drunk."

8718. Many of the wives of those poor labourers told you this story?—Yes.

8719. *Chairman.*] If that were in any degree true, how is it possible that the labourers should continue to labour in the fields, and to do an ordinary day's work? —It is astonishing to me how they do continue.

8720. If labourers are so exhausted by their day's work, as, upon their return at night, to appear like drunken men, staggering from weakness, do you believe that they can continue for a length of time to do an ordinary day's work?—I think they cannot continue for any length of time.

8721. How long have they continued to stagger in this way in the Ampthill Union?—As for how long, I cannot say; it is so at the present time, or at all events when the statement was made to us.

8722. If they are so weak as to be unable to walk steadily home after their day's labour, can they continue for a week or a month performing the ordinary labour of husbandry?—After having a night's rest, and a few more potatoes, it revives them a little.

8723. After having a night's rest, and a little food, they may be revived; but if their strength is so exhausted after a day's work that they are unable to walk steadily home, do you believe, with the insufficient food you describe them to have, that they can continue for a month in such a condition of health as to do an ordinary day's work?—They have continued for months.

8724. If they have continued for months to do an ordinary day's work, do you believe that their strength is so impaired as you have described?—I do believe it.

8725. How do you reconcile the fact that their strength is so impaired that at the close of the day they are unable to walk steadily home, and yet that they can continue for months to do the ordinary work of labourers?—I do not think that they can do an ordinary day's work under those circumstances.

8726. Is the general condition of the labourers in the part of Bedfordshire which you have visited, such as to make them unable to do an ordinary day's work?—Such circumstances as I have described; no man who does not get his belly-full of victuals can do his work.

[*The Question was read to the Witness.*]

I said before, I think, that, having not sufficient victuals, they cannot do a day's work.

8727. Do they not do a day's work in that part of the country?—A great many cannot do it, for they have not sufficient victuals.

8728. Do you believe that many of the people in the Ampthill Union are prevented from doing an ordinary day's work by an insufficiency of food?—I do believe it.

8729. Do you believe that John Sissick, whose food and appearance you have described, from the report of his wife, to be one of those cases?—I do.

8730. How happens it that the farmer should continue to give him 9*s.* a week, and give him lodging three or four nights in a week in his own house, if he is unable to do an ordinary day's work?—Perhaps it might be that he has a little respect for the man, and that that makes him keep him at his house.

8731. Do you believe that the farmer would continue to employ a labourer at the usual wages, and give him accommodation three or four nights in the week in his house, if that man was not in a condition to do an ordinary day's work?—I cannot say what a farmer would do; he has kept him on till now.

8732. At the usual wages?—Nine shillings a week.

8733. Is that the usual wages of the country?—Generally.

8734. How long has he been employed for this farmer?—That I cannot speak to.

8735. Do you believe that the farmer would have continued to employ this man in the way you have described, if he could not do an ordinary day's work?—I cannot tell what that farmer would do.

8736. Mr. *Barneby.*] Do you believe that this is the general appearance of the labouring population in Bedfordshire?—A great many of their appearances do not look very well.

8737. Then though you cannot give an answer to the question, whether the farmer who employs this individual keeps him out of charity or not; do you believe

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it is the practice of the farmers in Bedfordshire to keep persons who are unable to do an ordinary day's work, paying them the usual wages of the country?—A great many of them do.

8738. *Chairman.*] Do you believe that a great many of the farmers in Bedfordshire keep labourers in their constant employ who cannot do an ordinary day's work?—I believe they do.

8739. You having been for some time inquiring into the condition of the poor in Bedfordshire, have you any instance that you can produce in which it has been the practice of a farmer to give a labourer the usual wages, the labourer not giving the usual return for those wages?—I do not think the farmer knows it at the time.

8740. Do not you think the farmer is a very good judge of what is the usual amount of labour that may be required from a labourer, in an ordinary state of health?—I think he ought to be a judge.

8741. Is it not essential to his interest that he should be a judge in that matter?—It is.

8742. Is it not the practice of his whole life to watch over these particulars, and form his judgment upon them?—Yes.

8743. Then if that is the case, do you believe it to be the practice of farmers in Bedfordshire to give their labourers the usual wages of the country, without requiring in return the usual amount of labour?—I do not know whether they give it without requiring it, but I do believe that there is many a one works for a master, that has not sufficient victuals, that are not able to do an ordinary day's work.

8744. You say you do not know whether the farmers require an ordinary day's labour; do you believe that the farmer is in the habit of giving the usual wages, unless he receives in return the usual amount of labour from the labourer?—That I cannot tell; I am not with the labourers, and I cannot say whether he does receive that amount of labour or not.

8745. Is it reasonable to suppose that a farmer, with a view to his own interest, and the common practice of agriculture, should be in the habit of giving his labourers the usual wages of the country, and not receive the usual average return from the labourers?—I do not know whether he would continue to do it if he knew it.

8746. Does he not know; is he not a judge of what is the usual average work?—Yes; but if there be four or half a dozen men working together, perhaps at one job, how can he tell whether one of them has done a day's work or not.

8747. Suppose four labourers to be working together upon a job, is not a farmer a good judge of how much of that may be performed in a day or a week?—He might be; but it so happens that frequently young men are working with married men; those young men are very often in a better condition to do a day's work than a man with four or five children.

8748. You believe the practice to be, when three or four men are working together, that the young men do a share of the elder men's work?—I have heard them say so.

8749. Do you think that the labourers would long continue to work upon those unequal terms, one labourer not only doing his own work, but the work of some labourers employed with him?—I have heard them complain often, while I have been in Bedfordshire, of that.

8750. Which party have you heard complain, the labourer who does more than his share, or the other?—The young man.

8751. Who compels a labourer to do more than his share of work?—I do not know that any man compels him to do more than his share of work, but I have heard them complain that they did more work than the married men, and at the same time did not receive so much wages.

8752. Have you heard any young men say that they have been employed with married men upon the same job of work, and at the same time working together, that they did more work than the married men?—Yes; I have heard them say so.

8753. Do you believe that that is a practice which has continued for any time?—How long it has continued I did not ask, but I know that they have complained of late while we have made inquiries.

8754. It has been said that the amount of task-work in the Ampthill Union has considerably increased; did you find that to be the case?—I did, in some cases.

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8755. Did you find that any of those married men were employed upon task-work?—Some of them are.

8756. Do you know whether Sissick was employed at all in task-work?—I do not.

8757. Did you find any instances in which the married men, being employed upon task-work, were unable to perform the same amount of work that they did three or four years ago?—Some of them are.

8758. But men of the same sort of age, did you find that they were unable now, as you believe from insufficiency of food, to do the same amount of work that they did a few years ago?—I stated the circumstances that had been represented to me, that their husbands were not in a condition to do so much work as before.

8759. Have you ever heard that said by the farmers; did you ever hear any farmer say that such is the condition of the labourer's health, generally, that he is not able to do the same amount of work that he was three or four years ago?—I have not heard a farmer say so.

8760. Have you asked the question of the farmers?—I never did.

8761. When this impression was upon your mind, should you not have thought it a very natural question to ask of the farmers, whether it was a correct impression?—I made many inquiries of the farmers about the married men and the single men, and they have said that the young men are able to do more work than the married men.

[*The Question was read to the Witness.*]

I did ask them that much (that I have said before,) with respect to young men.

8762. You being under the impression that the labourers in that part of Bedfordshire were suffering in their health and strength from an insufficiency of food, did you ever ask any one farmer, and if so, name the farmer, whether the labourers of the same age were now able to do the same amount of work that they were able to do three or four years ago?—I never did.

8763. You having gone into this part of the country a good deal, did you observe any thing in the general appearance of the people which indicates to you that they are in a state of health inferior to that of the same class of persons in other parts of the country?—I should think a great number of them look worse than they do in other parts of the country.

8764. You found some persons there, as in all neighbourhoods, weak and old, and some past labour, but, generally speaking, taking the labourer from 30 to 40 years of age, when he may be supposed to be in his prime; should you say that the appearance of that class of labourers was different from that of labourers in any other part with which you are acquainted?—No, I do not know that it makes so much difference in their appearance.

8765. Then if this insufficiency of food is not indicated by any thing remarkable in their appearance, and if you have not ascertained from the farmers that they are unable to do the same amount of work that they could two or three years ago, how do you substantiate the statement you made in the former part of your evidence?—I go by what has been stated to me by the wives of the labourers, and likewise in describing what quantity of food they have to live on during the week.

8766. Mr. *Fielden.*] I gathered from your answer that you think it is necessary that working people should have a sufficiency of food to enable them to sustain labour?—I do.

8767. From the manner in which you have ascertained that the people live in Bedfordshire, you think that they have not that sufficiency of food to enable them to do a hard day's work?—I am quite sure of it.

8768. Have you seen numbers whom you have reason to believe, and are convinced, could not do a fair day's work?—It is my opinion.

8769. May it not be the case that those labourers, though they are kept on at this employment, and exert themselves to the utmost, are wearing out their constitutions by the labour they do perform?—They are.

8770. Have you any doubt that there are a great number in the Ampthill Union who are fast wearing away, from having food insufficient to enable them to sustain a day's work?—They have not. I will give an instance: when I was in the parish of Lidlington, I saw some half a score, I think, I did not count the number, of the Duke of Bedford's men working in a field; I inquired whose men they

they were; they said they were working for the Duke of Bedford; we had been then two months in that part of the country, and never met one single labourer who said that he was better off since the passing of the law; I thought the Duke of Bedford's men would be the likeliest to pick out of the lot, and that we could then say we had found one; I went to them, and asked them, in the course of conversation, if they were not better off than they had been before, since the passing of the new law; they said they were not. I asked, "How is it you are not better off?" "We are a good deal worse; before the passing of the new law we used to have head-money for our families; and we were told by those advocates of the new law, that when the law was passed, wages would increase in proportion, but it has never yet been the case. We have 10*s.* a week now, and we had 10*s.* a week then;" so that there is no difference in the Duke of Bedford's men. One amongst the rest said, "No, I am not much better off than I was before; and it is now dinner time, and I have to go home, but there will be no dinner; if you will go to my house you will find that there is nothing but water, and perhaps a little salt." I asked the man where he lived; he told me; I went to his house before him, and found his dinner upon the table waiting for him, and it was cold water and a little salt; there was not a bit of bread in the house, for I searched the house. I went up-stairs after that, and looked at the beds, and they had no blankets, nothing but straw to lie upon. Now that man, it strikes me very forcibly, would not be able, after going away from his house, having nothing but water and salt for his dinner, to do a day's work. Mr. *Mark Crabtree.* 8 May 1838.

8771. *Chairman.*] You have not answered the question.

[*The previous Question was read.*]

I said, I did think so, and I would give an instance of the cause of my thinking so.

8772. You have no doubt that several people are wearing away in the Ampthill Union, from insufficiency of food?—I have not.

8773. Mr. *Freshfield.*] But you do not observe any thing remarkable in the appearance of the people?—The chairman asked me whether I saw any difference between the people in that part of the country and other parts of the country, and I said I could not perceive any difference.

8774. Mr. *Barneby.*] You have stated the case of a certain individual who, you say, had nothing but cold water and salt for his dinner; do you believe that to be the case of a great number of labourers who have not sufficient nourishment?—A great number have nothing but water and bread for their dinner.

8775. Mr. *Chichester.*] What is the name of this individual?—Reed.

8776. In what place did he live?—Ridgmont.

8777. What were his wages?—Ten shillings.

8778. What was his family?—I believe there were seven children.

8779. Mr. *Miles.*] What was Reed's appearance at that time?—I did not perceive much difference between him and the rest.

8780. Did you know him before?—I did not.

8781. Had you been at all acquainted with Bedfordshire before you were sent down there?—I had not.

8782. Then you did not know what the condition of the body of labourers was before you were sent down?—I did not.

8783. How then can you draw a comparison between their present state and their former?—I cannot; I can only speak to their condition as I found them.

8784. You state that their condition is not so good now as it was formerly?—According to the statements, it is not.

8785. But you are not able yourself to draw a comparison?—I am not, for years back.

8786. Would not persons living in the country be able to form a comparison very much better than yourself?—I should think they would.

8787. Mr. *Chichester.*] How long have you been in the neighbourhood?—Three months.

8788. Mr. *Barneby.*] In what union was this man residing?—I believe it was in the Union of Woburn.

8789. Have you any case of that kind that you could mention in the Ampthill Union?—He happened to be working in the Union of Ampthill, but not resident in it.

8790. *Chairman.*] In what parish was he working?—The parish of Lidlington.

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8791. This man you describe to be working for the Duke of Bedford, at 10*s.* a week?—Yes; but the whole of the men stated that they had their tools to find out of that.

8792. How long had he been working for the Duke of Bedford?—Five years.

8793. Always at the same wages?—I believe he stated that.

8794. Always dining on salt and water?—No; because he said his circumstances were made much worse; he used to have head-money.

8795. But since he had lost his head-money, he had been in the habit of dining on salt and water?—Not always; that was Friday, and he would get his wages on Saturday, which would give him something for the fore end of the next week.

8796. But on Friday he always dined on salt and water?—He did not say that always on Friday he dined on salt and water, but it was the case that day.

8797. Do you believe that this man would continue for five years, or for the two years and a half that have elapsed since the introduction of the new law into Ampthill, and since the head-money has been withdrawn on account of the number of families, to be employed at 10*s.* a week wages, if he were not able to do an ordinary day's labour?—That I cannot say.

8798. Do you believe it, with your experience in life, and having passed three months now amongst the farmers and the labourers of Bedfordshire, that this man would have continued to receive 10*s.* a week wages, if he had not been able to do an ordinary day's work?—I cannot say whether he would or would not; but I do know that he has been since turned away from the Duke of Bedford, and whether on that account or not I cannot say.

8799. But for five years he was working for the Duke of Bedford?—Yes.

8800. Had he been working for the five last years for the Duke of Bedford?—So he stated.

8891. And therefore he must have been working for the Duke of Bedford for the two years and a half since the head-money has been withdrawn?—I do not know how long the head-money has been withdrawn; that is the statement he made to me.

8802. You do not know when the allowance on account of children was withdrawn?—Not exactly.

8803. It had been withdrawn at least for some time above a year, had it not?—Yes.

8804. Do you believe if this man had been reduced to such distress as to be obliged to dine frequently on salt and water, that his strength would be such as to insure to him the average wages of the country?—When a man cannot do a good day's work, the master does not think fit to give him as much as if he can; but if the master feels for the man, he continues to employ him.

8805. Do you believe that with 10*s.* a week wages, a man cannot provide himself with the necessaries of life?—Not with a family like his.

8806. What was his family?—I have no account exactly of the number of the family; I know that he had either six or seven children.

8807. Do you know the ages of the children?—The oldest is 16 years of age.

8808. The man was earning 10*s.* a week; do you know what his wife would be able to earn?—She was not able to earn any thing, because she had a little baby in her arms, and the rest of the family to look after.

8809. Had she been able to earn any thing in the straw-plaiting or lace-making during the last five years?—I believe she is not a plaiter; whether she is a lace-maker or not I do not know.

8810. Do you know whether she has earned any thing?—I do not.

8811. You undertaking to represent the circumstances of this family, did you inquire whether the wife either plaited straw, or made lace, and what she earned at either of those occupations?—I remember now that I asked what she earned, and what the children earned, and she said she could not do any thing; she used to make lace, but now she could not do any thing.

8812. What did the children earn?—The oldest would earn 1*s.* 6*d.* a week by lace-making.

8813. That must be added to the wages; that makes 11*s.* 6*d.* a week; what is the age of the next child?—The next child was 14.

8814. A boy or a girl?—A girl; she said she would make about 15*d.*

8815. What would the next earn?—The next would earn 1*s.*; the other child did not do much, and what she did would not pay more than for schooling.

8816. That

8816. That makes 13*s.* 9*d.* for that family; do you believe that with an income of 13*s.* 9*d.*, taking their income to be what you state it to be, with the advantage of higher wages at harvest, and at particular seasons of the year, that family would not be able to provide themselves with the decent comforts of life; is that your opinion?—I think it is too little.

8817. How would you propose that that should be increased?—Well, I think the man, for instance, has too little wages.

8818. How would you propose to increase his wages?—By giving him more.

8819. How would you induce people to give him more?—That would be a task that I should be sorry to undertake, for I should have a hard job to induce them to give more.

8820. Mr. *Barneby.*] You stated that the strength of the labourers was very much decreased, and consequently that their lives were shortened, and that their wages would not afford them a sufficiency of food?—I do think they are declining.

8821. Are you aware of the wages that persons receive in manufacturing districts?—Yes.

8822. Are you not aware that in certain manufactories persons receive a very high amount of wages on account of the work they do, and that their lives are notoriously of shorter duration than the labourers of agricultural districts?—To those who are confined in factories it is as injurious as those who are short of victuals; that is my opinion,—having to work such long hours.

8823. And therefore the labourers in the Union of Ampthill, although you say they have not a sufficiency of food, yet live to a greater age than persons, who receive a higher amount of wages, in the manufacturing districts?—I am not aware what ages they live to in the agricultural districts.

8824. Did you not tell the Committee, in answer to a former question, that you believed persons were shorter lived in some of the manufacturing districts, in consequence of the labour that they do?—I do not recollect saying so; I said that it was as injurious to work long hours in factories as to persons to be short of victuals.

8825. And therefore that those persons in the manufacturing districts, though receiving higher wages, are not in a better situation than those whom you have described in the Union of Ampthill?—Their circumstances are better, but with regard to health I do not think they are any better.

8826. And that they are not longer lived?—No, not those who work in factories.

8827. Mr. *Liddell.*] Did you find, in your inquiries in the Union of Ampthill, any of the labouring classes who declared that their condition was materially improved, or the wages of labour augmented, by the introduction of the new Poor Law?—They stated that that had not been the case.

8828. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did not many of them state, in the case of Reed and other labourers, that you met with in that field, that their condition had grown worse since the Poor Law had come into operation?—Yes.

8829. Did not Reed's telling you that he had only salt and water for his dinner, induce you to go to his house prior to his getting there?—Yes.

8830. Did Reed come home while you were there?—Yes.

8831. Did his wife tell you the same story, that he had nothing but salt and water for his dinner?—She did.

8832. You do not mean to say that Reed subsisted upon salt and water chiefly?—I did not mean that.

8833. Have you not known, in other places besides Bedfordshire, poor people who sometimes for a day together have been altogether destitute of victuals?—I have.

8834. You examined the house of Reed when you got there, to see whether there were any victuals in the house?—I did.

8835. Did you, from that examination, conclude that he had no victuals in his house wherewith he could support himself for that day?—I was quite sure of it.

8836. A question has been put to you as to the income of Reed, and you have stated it to be 13*s.* 9*d.* a week; you state Reed's family to amount to eight or nine persons; do you conceive 13*s.* 9*d.* will support nine persons? Can you yourself imagine that that is sufficient, at the price at which provisions sell in Bedfordshire, to support a poor man and his family, of any magnitude?—I am quite sure that

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it is not sufficient. Since the passing of the new law there has been an advance in the price of bread; that makes their circumstances considerably worse.

8837. The income of this family, according to the statement you have made out, will not amount to more than 2½ *d.* or 2¾ *d.* per head per day; out of that they have their rent to pay, their fuel to purchase, and many out-goings, besides food, which are unavoidable?—They have.

8838. Then, can it be any wonder that they should occasionally be without food on certain days of the week?—They are obliged to be without food; for it is no use, they say, their getting credit, because they cannot see when they will be able to pay for it.

8839. But this man himself, and others whom you conversed with, accounted for their impoverished condition being greater than it was before the new law, from the head-money having been withdrawn?—It was their statement.

8840. There can be no doubt that, with the same wages and head-money besides, those poor people would have had more money for subsistence every day?—They would.

8841. Mr. *Chichester.*] Were the labourers aware for what purpose you came into that part of the world?—I do not know that they were; I had never seen them before, and I do not know that they had seen me.

8842. Not speaking of the particular labourers in that field, but of the labourers generally in the neighbourhood?—We never said to them what our object was; we asked them their circumstances, and what wages they had, and what they used to have; and wished them to state to us how they were situated.

8843. Did you make much inquiry amongst their employers about them?—In some instances we did.

8844. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you seen the tabular statements that have been put in by Mr. Turner, in which a comparison is made of their condition before the new law with what it is now?—I have.

8845. Have you reason to believe that, if he is correct, those men are reduced, as shown in those comparative statements?—Yes.

8846. And if you are not correct, there is a mode of obtaining a correct account?—There is, if persons will go and take the same pains and the same trouble as we have done, and bring up tabular statements in the manner that we have done; if we are found not correct, we are willing to be set right.

8847. Have you any doubt that many of the labourers whose names you have given in those returns would be willing to come up here as witnesses, and to make their statements to the Committee?—They readily would come, if they were sent for.

8848. And there can be no difficulty in getting at the truth?—I should think not; the Committee can send for those persons, if they think it right, and they will state their circumstances.

8849. Have not you heard from the farmers that the poor are worse off than they were before the new law?—I have heard many of the farmers say so.

8850. The conjoint statements of the farmers and labourers together, leave no doubt in your mind that that is the fact?—Not a bit.

8851. Mr. *Barneby.*] Do you allude to the majority of farmers, or to a few individuals?—The farmers that we have conversed with.

8852. Did you select them on purpose, because you knew them to be adverse to the present Poor Law?—No; when we fell into their company we introduced the subject, and asked their opinions.

8853. Mr. *Chichester.*] Did you submit to them your plan for benefiting the labourers?—No, I do not know that we submitted any plan.

8854. Mr. *Barneby.*] Will you state the names of farmers with whom you had conversation, and who have expressed this opinion to you?—I could name some.

8855. Will you give half a dozen?—I will give you the name of Mr. Iliff, in the parish of Marston; the name of Mr. Lyon, in the same parish; Mr. Webb, of the same parish, but he lives in Ampthill; his farm is in the parish of Marston.

8856. Will you state to the Committee what Mr. Iliff said to you, relative to the labourers being worse off than they were before the passing of the present Poor Law Act?—He alluded to the head-money being taken off; they used to have head-money according to the number of their families; and he alluded to the out-door relief in case of a man being thrown out of employment, and not having medical assistance, as they used to have.

8857. Have you known any cases in which medical assistance has been less given

given now than formerly; or did Mr. Iliff tell you of any cases of neglect?— I think that Mr. Turner has given in cases; Mr. Iliff mentioned the case of Barnard Chappel, that had been neglected, and had not the medical assistance which he should have had. Mr. *Mark Crabtree.* 8 May 1838.

8858. Do you know what sized farm Mr. Iliff has in his occupation?—Not exactly; something short of one hundred acres, I believe; I do not recollect that I asked him the size of his farm.

8859. What did Mr. Lyons state to you respecting the manner in which the poor persons were worse off now than before the passing of the Act?—He gave the same reasons as Mr. Iliff; they were both together at the time; he corroborated the opinions of Mr. Iliff, and likewise made use of similar words.

8860. If I understand you correctly, the objections made by those parties are to the mode in which relief is administered now, and not to the quantity of relief that is administered?—They find fault with the mode of administering it.

8861. Have any expressed to you an opinion that they receive a less quantity of relief, where relief is necessary, than they did formerly?—They have stated that frequently.

8862. Do you know whether Mr. Webb is a farmer entirely, or has he any other occupation?—He is a publican, I believe.

8863. Does he keep more than one public-house?—I believe he does.

8864. Do you know whether he was in any employment before the passing of this new Poor Law?—I do not know as to his employment; he was a farmer.

8865. Do you know whether he was an assistant-overseer?—I believe he was.

8866. Was he paid for it?—I do not know; I did not ask him.

8867. If a person was an assistant-overseer, prior to the passing of this Act, and kept public-houses when, it is said, labourers frequented public-houses, this person might have some reason to complain of the new law?—I do not believe Mr. Webb to be a man who would like the labourers to spend their money at public-houses; Mr. Webb did not complain on that account to me.

8868. Would there not be some doubt as to the motive by which he was influenced in any opinion he might give against the new Poor Law, because previously he was an assistant paid overseer, and also kept two public-houses?—I do not know that it would make any difference to him; it might to some people; they might think they could make a trifle more from the labourers, if they had more relief.

8869. Evidence coming from a person in the situation of Mr. Webb would be looked upon with suspicion, would it not?—I do not know that Mr. Webb was influenced by that.

8870. Would you place so much credit upon the evidence of a person who had been, under the old law, an assistant-overseer and kept two public-houses, as upon the evidence of an individual who had not any of those temptations?—I do not know; I should certainly look with suspicion upon a man who is giving evidence, or an opinion, that is interested in it; so I do with the Commissioners that are examined.

8871. Is not Mr. Webb one of those persons who would be interested in it?—He might be interested if, under the old law, he received a salary as assistant-overseer; but we are not to look with suspicion upon a man, because he has a salary.

8872. Mr. *Fielden.*] If Mr. Webb acted the part of an overseer before the passing of this new law, was he not likely to be a competent person to state whether the labourer's condition had improved or not under the new law?—I thought he was a very likely person.

8873. His knowledge of the poor before, and his knowledge of the poor now, constitute him a good judge of whether their condition has been improved or otherwise?—I thought him as likely a man to know the condition of the poor as any that I could apply to.

8874. Mr. *Barneby.*] Are you aware whether he was assistant-overseer for more than that one parish?—I am not aware; I never asked him.

8875. Mr. *Miles.*] Were you resident at his house during the inquiry?—I was not.

8876. Did he say whether his trade, as a publican, had fallen off since the new law?—He did not.

8877. Did you think it necessary to ask him the question?—I did not think it necessary to inquire into it.

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8878. If his trade had fallen off since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, would he not have been rather interested in the question?—I do not know that it has fallen off, for it happens that in the Commissioners' Report they say there is as much drinking now as ever there was.

8879. *Chairman.*] Where is it that you find that the Commissioners in their Report state that there is now as much drinking as ever there was?—In the Third Report of the Poor Law Commissioners.

8880. Be so good as to point out any passage in this Report of the Commissioners in which that is stated, or be prepared to-morrow to point out the passage?—I will.

8881. Mr. *Barneby.*] What is the name of the parish in which Mr. Webb resides?—Ampthill.

8882. Did he not also reside in Murston-moretaine?—Yes.

8883. Was he not guardian of one of the parishes at the formation of the union?—I believe he was.

8884. And in the parish for which he was guardian, do you know whether any able-bodied persons have been out of work during the last winter?—Last winter there were.

8885. Can you state how many?—Ten or eleven.

8886. Can you state the names of any who have been out of employ during the last winter?—I will bring them to-morrow.

8887. If it should be shown that before the passing of the Poor Law Act there were as many as 60 out of work in that parish, would you not say that their condition was better, even if there were 12 out of employ, than it could have been if 60 were out of employ formerly?—I do not know that those 60 would be better off in their circumstances than before, so long as they were paid by the parish as much as if they were in work, or nearly so.

8888. But you are certain that as many as 12 were out of employ during the last winter?—It appears so; I will give the names to-morrow.

8889. Do you know what the expenditure of that parish was, either before the passing of the Poor Law Act or in the last year?—I do not.

8890. If it should appear that the expenditure before the passing of the Act was 2,100 *l.* and during the last year 787 *l.*, is not that a great saving to the rate-payers?—Certainly it is a great saving to the rate-payers.

8891. And, consequently, they were able to pay a great deal more money to the labourers for their work?—They would be, if they were willing.

8892. And if it is correct that there were 60 people out of employ before the passing of the Poor Law Act, and only 12 during the last winter, the natural inference to be drawn is, that more people were employed, and that the saving of rates was expended in the employment of those persons?—Certainly; if that was the case, that 60 were out of employ before the new law and only 12 now, there must be more employment now in that parish or in some other parish.

8893. Mr. *Fielden.*] May not the saving that has just been referred to be one of the causes why these poor men are plunged into deep poverty and have to suffer deep distress?—Yes; because when they were out of work before, they had something to fall back upon, but now when they are out of work they have nothing; their sufferings are greater when they are out of work than they were before.

8894. You mean that now they have nothing to fall back upon but the workhouse?—Yes.

8895. Have you understood, while you have been down there, that it is the general practice to deny all relief to the able-bodied men out of the workhouse?—It is.

8896. You mentioned the case of Barnard Chappel, whom Mr. Iliff described to you; can you state what that case was; did he suffer for want of medical relief?—I believe Mr. Turner has it in his books; I have it not here.

8897. Is it a case that Mr. Turner has given in evidence?—It is.

8898. Did this person of the name of Reed, whom you saw, tell you how he was in the habit of living from week to week, at all?—Both he and his wife said that it was impossible for them to tell how they lived from Monday morning to Saturday night.

8899. Have you heard a good deal said about the improved feeling and morals of the labouring class, which were expected to arise out of the operation of the

new law?—I have heard a good deal said about the morals and the good feeling of the labouring class being improved.

8900. Do you know at all whether the feeling towards their employers and those in better circumstances of society, is better or worse among the labouring people of Bedfordshire, from the information you have received?—I do not think that there can be a much better feeling towards their employers on account of their masters, particularly those masters that advocate this new law; for it has been stated by the labourers, that the masters cannot wish them well when they want them to be driven into the workhouse, or in fact they have generally termed it prison, when they have no work.

8901. Did you hear any labourers state that they could have no reasons for entertaining better feelings towards their employers, when they were getting poorer and poorer every day?—I did; that they could not have any better feeling towards their masters when that was the case.

8902. Did you hear any thing said by the labourers upon that subject?—We did.

8903. Can you call to your recollection what you heard?—I heard one man, of the name of William Cox, in the parish of Shitlington, say, that the men now had to be more submissive than they used to be, because there were so many out of employment, and the masters knew it; and he himself had been discharged, though he had wrought for his master for a great number of years, only for saying that he was threshing for 2*d.* a load less than some of the farmers were giving in the neighbourhood; and he was discharged for so doing; therefore it could not create a good feeling between him and his employer.

8904. Have you reason to believe that the statement he made, that he was working for 2*d.* a load less at threshing than other labourers, was true?—I have every reason to believe that it was true, for he stated it in the presence of two farmers who lived in the neighbourhood.

8905. Mr. *Chichester.*] Also that there were many men out of employment; have you reason to believe that?—Yes.

8906. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you any doubt about there being a great number of men out of employment during the time you have been down at Ampthill?—There have been a great many out of employment.

8907. Were you there when what was called a riot was apprehended, in the commencement of this year?—I was not in the town of Ampthill when it was said to take place; but I was in the neighbourhood, I believe I was at Woburn.

8908. Do you know the reason of the assemblage of labourers at Ampthill on that day?—I believe I do.

8909. Can you state it to the Committee?—I will: when Mr. Turner and I were at Bedford, in the workhouse of Bedford, Mr. Adey was there; he asked us if we had got our instructions, or some words to that effect, and we showed those instructions to Mr. Adey, and read them over, and in the course of conversation he said that not a working man was out of work in Bedfordshire that was willing to work; and when we found in every parish of the Ampthill Union 20, 30, and upwards, out of work, we never made a secret of it to tell them that they were men who would not work; for Mr. Adey, the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner in that district, had said, there was not an honest hard-working labourer out of work that would work; and I myself said to those men, "It has been said to us, you are never seen assembling yourselves in the towns, as you used to do when upon the roads; I would advise you to show yourselves, and not let the people see that you are out of work, and then they will know it;" and they did so; they assembled in the town of Ampthill, on one day, from 100 to 300; it was so stated in the paper, those out of work in the Ampthill Union alone.

8910. For the purpose, as you had recommended, of making known that they were out of work at that period?—That was the only object they had in view, to show the people they were out of work.

8911. After they had so shown themselves, did not they go peaceably back to their own homes, and nothing like disturbance arise out of it?—I believe they did, from all the information we had given to us afterwards, that they went away as peaceably as they came.

8912. Mr. *Miles.*] You say that you recommended them to show themselves, as they had done in the market town, that they were out of work; were you in the habit of meeting numbers of those persons together, or seeing them individually?—

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vidually?—We generally had them in numbers; those that were out of work, they generally assembled themselves together, and we took down their names.

8913. At some of those district meetings it was that you recommended the general assembling of the people together, to show that they were out of work?—It was not district meetings; we sent one man round to those that are out of employment; "Let us see what number there is;" and assembled them together, in order that we might ask some farmer if those people were out of work, and if there were any in the lot that he would not employ, and the reason for it; and they did do so; for instance, in the parish of Lidlington, where we had between 20 and 30 assembled, Mr. Thomas, the guardian of that parish, was there: we asked him if there was any body there whom he would not employ on his farm, and he said, no; and he said he would not wish us to think that he was trying to throw any obstacle in our way, for he would give us every facility in his power, for he thought they wanted some alteration in the new law.

8914. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have mentioned the number of 20 in every parish; would you wish to correct that; were there as many as 20 out of work?—In a great many parishes there were at that time, in the severe weather.

8915. Have you seen a petition that has been sent up to the House, complaining of your conduct at Ampthill?—I have.

8916. Or at least you infer that the complaint was preferred against you and Mr. Turner?—Yes.

8917. Have you, during the time that you have been down there, done any thing to raise any thing like discontent or to create any dissatisfaction, further than would arise from the inquiry you have been making as to the state of the poor?—We have not, and the respectable part of the inhabitants would justify the same.

8918. Mr. *Chichester.*] Did all the labourers, from 100 to 300, who assembled at Ampthill, belong to the Ampthill Union?—I cannot state.

8919. Or whether they left their work on purpose to go?—I cannot speak to that.

8920. Mr. *Fielden.*] Are there any other special cases which you wish to state to the Committee, that have come under your observation during your residence down at Ampthill?—I think there is a case of a man of the name of Page; Daniel Page, of the parish of Flitwick; he has a wife and eight children, and one of them, or in fact two children, were sick at the time; the wife applied to the relieving officer for an order for the doctor for her child.

8921. *Chairman.*] When was this application made?—Not more than six weeks ago; the relieving officer asked the wife if her husband was in a medical club, and she said, "No." "Why, then," he says, "you must go to your husband for a doctor; I shall not give you an order;" and did not do so.

8922. The medical order was refused because the man was not in a medical club?—That was the answer given to the woman.

8923. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did any consequences ensue which you wish to state to the Committee?—We called afterwards to see how the children were going on, and the elder was a little better, but the younger one was still as bad; we have called while we have been down this last time, and the mother then complained, and thought it very hard, having such a large family as they had, that, upon applying to the relieving officer, he would not give them an order for the doctor.

8924. *Chairman.*] Can you state any thing of Daniel Page's circumstances?—He is a thresher.

8925. What does he earn?—About 10*s.* a week, he states to us.

8926. Do you know what his wife earns?—There is no account of the wife earning any thing.

8927. Is she unable to do the usual work of the country?—She is; her time is occupied with the family, having the youngest child sick.

8928. What are the ages of the children?—The age of the oldest is 20, a daughter.

8929. What is she doing?—I believe she was the one that was sick.

8930. Then do you know any thing of the age of the next child?—Eighteen, a girl.

8931. What was she doing?—Plaiting.

8932. What was she earning at plaiting?—It is stated here at 2*s.* 6*d.* a week.

8933. What is the age of the next child?—Fifteen, a girl.

8934. What is she doing?—Plaiting.

8935. What

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8935. What is she earning?—It is stated here, 2*s.*

8936. What is the age of the next?—Eleven, a girl; she is at plaiting.

8937. What does she earn?—The same as the others; there is an alteration made in it here; they have summed it altogether, 7*s.* delivering in the work, and altogether they earn 7*s.* a week.

8938. Besides the man?—Yes.

8939. That gives them altogether an income of 17*s.* a week?—Yes.

8940. Do you know what the man pays for rent?—Two pounds twelve shillings; firing, 1*s.* 6*d.*

8941. Mr. *Langdale.*] Have they any gardens with the cottages?—I believe not.

8942. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you any other case that you wish to bring before the Committee?—Not any particular case.

8943. Mr. *Chichester.*] Did she report to the guardian of the parish this complaint?—I do not know that she did; and I do not know that it is of any use making the complaint to the guardian.

Mr. *John Marshall,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *John Marshall.*

8944. *Chairman.*] YOU are the relieving officer of the Ampthill Union, are you not?—I am.

8945. When were you first appointed relieving officer?—The 16th of July, 1835.

8946. Nearly three years ago?—Yes.

8947. Had you ever served in any parish office before, or been acquainted with parochial management of any sort?—Not any.

8948. Had you any acquaintance with the Union of Ampthill?—None whatever.

8949. Did you offer your services in consequence of any public advertisement?—Yes, I did.

8950. Was that public advertisement put into the London papers?—I saw it in the "Morning Chronicle."

8951. What was the nature of the advertisement?—That a relieving officer was wanted for the Union of Ampthill; that he would be required to keep a horse; that his salary would be 130*l.* a year for one district, and that he would be required to give security for 400*l.* I made an application, with a recommendation from Sir Charles Dalbiac, and the answer came (I did not personally apply) that I was provisionally elected; I went down on the following board day, and my election was confirmed, in consequence of the further testimonials I took down with me.

8952. What had you been before you were appointed as relieving officer?—I had been a housekeeper in the parish of Mary-le-bone for some years, but previously to that, I had been in the army.

8953. What rank did you hold in the army?—Serjeant-major of a regiment of dragoons.

8954. You went recommended to the Ampthill Union by officers who had known you in the service?—I did, by officers who stated the whole of my military career from beginning to end.

8955. And they stated that they had known you sufficiently to speak to the respectability of your character?—Yes, they did.

8956. And those officers knew that you were a well-conducted man?—They did; Sir Charles Dalbiac was the principal man who spoke to my character.

8957. What opportunities had he of knowing you?—He was Colonel of the 4th Dragoons, and I was the paymaster's clerk; I went to India with him, and returned from India with him.

8958. Those testimonials you sent to Ampthill, and were provisionally elected?—Yes.

8959. Were you elected for the whole of the union, or for one district?—One district.

8960. What parishes were comprised in that district?—Eleven, called the eastern district.

8961. Were the other parishes given to the care of another relieving officer?—Yes, of the name of Osborne.

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8962. How long did you act for those 11 parishes?—I acted for those parishes till June 1836.

8963. Till the expiration of the year; and in June 1836, what different arrangement was made?—It was considered that one relieving officer might pay the union, in consequence of the decrease in the number of paupers; and I was the person elected to fill the situation.

8964. You had been serving the office for 11 parishes?—Yes; Mr. Osborne had eight.

8965. Was the population about equally divided between you?—No, I had the largest; mine was 9,000, and his was rather under 6,000.

8966. Did you, after a year's experience in relieving the poor for the 11 parishes, find that you had time enough to spare to devote to the other parishes of the union?—I found my duties not so hard as they had been, and I could, I thought, undertake the whole union.

8967. In what respect were your duties diminished?—From the decrease of the number of paupers from the time the workhouse was built in February 1836. We then found a decrease in pauperism, because we invariably offered the workhouse to all able-bodied people out of employ, unless there was some reason.

8968. Did you make that offer to able-bodied women as well as able-bodied men?—If there was occasion; not invariably.

8969. The rule was invariably applied to men, was it?—It was.

8970. From the time the workhouse was completed?—Yes.

8971. When was that?—The 24th of February 1836.

8972. Therefore you had about half a year's experience of one district with the workhouse in operation, from February to July?—Yes.

8973. Be so good as to describe exactly the way in which your time is occupied, beginning, if you please, with Monday morning, and going through the rest of the week. Where do you live?—I live in the parish of Ampthill.

8974. Is that tolerably central, with regard to the whole union?—Yes, as nearly so as possible.

8975. What is the distance of any point from your residence?—Seven miles is the extreme distance.

8976. The great amount of the population is within a smaller distance, is it?—Yes.

8977. Is Ampthill the most populous parish of the union?—Yes.

8978. What is the next most populous parish?—Shitlington, and Cranfield is the third.

8979. What is the distance of Cranfield from your residence?—Six miles.

8980. Some of the parish may be farther, may it not?—Some of the parish may be farther.

8981. Seven miles, or more?—Not more than seven miles.

8982. How far is Maulden from your residence?—Maulden is a mile.

8983. How far is Shitlington?—Seven miles.

8984. Is any of the parish more than seven miles?—Some part of the parish may be more than seven miles.

8985. Eight miles?—Perhaps it may be.

8986. Marston?—That is three miles.

8987. Are the roads good, and the communication easy between those parishes?—Very good; the best in England, I should say.

8988. Is Ampthill the market town of the district to which they generally come?—It is.

8989. Be so good as to state what you do through the week?—Perhaps it would be better to begin with the day after the board-day; Thursday is the board-day; I then attend the board.

8990. What is your occupation there?—To lay the cases of paupers before the guardians, as I have received them from them; and to take their instructions as to what is to be done with them.

8991. You are at Ampthill by times on Thursday morning; at what time does the board meet?—I live at Ampthill.

8992. It is notorious, if any body wished to make an application to you, that you would be there on that day?—Yes.

8993. Supposing a pauper, wishing to make an application to the board, were to come on Thursday morning to Ampthill to see you, should you take his name down in your book, and represent his case to the board?—I should.

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8994. Should you do so in all cases, or should you in some cases abstain from doing it on that day, in order to enable yourself to become master of the circumstances of the case?—I should take them in all cases, and mention to the board that I had not had an opportunity of inquiring; and in those cases the board usually make some provisional order, either that the thing shall stand over for a week, or that some trifle shall be given till I have made inquiry.

8995. You would relieve the parties at your discretion in the interim, supposing it to be a case with the circumstances of which you are not acquainted, and report it on the next day of meeting to the board; is that the course adopted?—It is.

8996. Is a large proportion of the applications which you receive made on the Thursday morning?—Yes, the majority of them are.

8997. Do people come from the different parishes, for the purpose of making applications on that day?—Yes, so much so that I seldom have an application made to me in their own parishes.

8998. And you say that it is your general practice to take those applications, and to represent the circumstances to the board on that day?—Yes.

8999. How is the representation made to the board; do you make the representation, or does the pauper appear at the time that his case is under consideration?—The pauper appears in all cases, and the board hear all that the pauper has to say, and ask him every question that they think necessary; and when the pauper retires, I am then asked what I know of the matter: if I know any thing, I put the board in possession of it; if I do not, I tell the board that the application has been so very recent that I have not had an opportunity of inquiring respecting that person, whom I have not known before, and am not prepared, therefore, to give them advice.

9000. Is it the case that the book in which the applications are entered is laid before the clerk or the chairman of the board, and from that does he read the names?—The clerk does when he is not otherwise engaged, but if he is I read the names.

9001. The chairman having another book in which the same names are inserted?—Yes, a minute-book.

9002. First of all there is your application-book, which contains the names of the paupers who have made application to you, and those names are read from your application-book as they appear in it, either by you or the clerk?—Exactly.

9003. Then there is the abstract of the application and report-book, with the board's decision upon the applications, a book which the chairman has in his hands at the time the business of the board is going on?—Yes.

9004. That book contains, in the first instance, a copy of the names as they appear in your application-book?—Yes.

9005. With the particulars of the number of the family, as they have been inserted by you in your application-book?—Yes.

9006. Those are the materials upon which the paupers are examined when they appear before the board?—Yes.

9007. Is it invariably the practice for the board to see the paupers who have made those applications?—Invariably.

9008. Have you ever, when a pauper has made an application to you, on an inquiry, supposing you have had time to make it, refused to enter the name in the application-book, or, having entered it in the application-book, have you ever refused to allow him to appear before the board?—Never, upon any one occasion.

9009. You speak quite confidently?—I do; I have never, on any one occasion, prevented a person who has made an application to me in time, from appearing before the board; they have in some instances applied after the books have been closed, and when the board were sitting, and then I could not take it, because the book has gone out of my possession.

9010. If the parties apply to you after the books are no longer in your possession, what is the course you take in that case?—Tell them to come the next Thursday.

9011. If they were to represent that their case was one of urgency, requiring relief in the intervening week, would you give them relief?—Yes.

9012. Have you done so?—Yes.

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9013. Do not you think it part of your duty to take that into consideration?—Certainly I do, as pointed out by the Commissioners.

9014. Does the board meet at eleven?—Yes.

9015. How many hours does it generally sit?—Sometimes till five o'clock in the afternoon, sometimes later, sometimes it rises earlier.

9016. Then your business is over for that day?—Yes.

9017. What do you do on Friday?—On Friday morning I visit the parish of Houghton, which is nearly three miles from Ampthill, and which contains a population of 796.

9018. What time do you go to Houghton?—At eight in the morning.

9019. Are you at Houghton at eight in the morning?—Yes, at eight in the morning in summer time, in winter time not much before nine.

9020. Where do you go to pay the people?—At the old workhouse.

9021. Have you a room to yourself in which to pay the people?—No; poor people are allowed to reside there.

9022. Do not you think it an inconvenient practice that you should not have a room to yourself in which to pay the paupers?—I have found great inconvenience, because I could not speak a word to a pauper without being interfered with immediately by the others.

9023. Are the parish officers in the habit of attending you at those places?—They seldom do.

9024. Is there any objection made by you when they do attend?—Never; I should be glad to see them, and derive information from them.

9025. Do you pay in kind?—I pay in money, and give them tickets for bread, the bread for which tickets the baker brings round some hours after in the course of that morning.

9026. Does he go round at stated hours?—He does; he visits each parish.

9027. Do you go at stated hours?—Yes.

9028. Is it notorious that you will be there at a particular hour?—I never vary.

9029. How long do you remain at Houghton?—I think about half an hour, or from that to three quarters of an hour, depending upon the business there may be to do.

9030. Is the whole of that time passed in paying the poor?—Yes.

9031. And you are also there ready to receive applications, if applications should be made?—Yes; and if they were cases of urgent necessity I should relieve them upon the spot, in kind.

9032. Submitting their cases to the board when they next meet?—Yes.

9033. In the cases of persons who may be sick at Houghton, do you think it necessary to visit their houses?—Sometimes.

9034. What would be the cases in which you would visit, and in which you would not?—The cases in which I should visit are, if there was any thing stated showing that they were not properly taken care of, or that they required a nurse; I should think it right to see whether they were so sick that a nurse was required.

9035. Would you not think it necessary, if articles had been ordered by the physician, to see that those articles were provided?—That I always do; I always give an order, if there is no other means of doing it, on a shop for it; if the doctor has ordered mutton, or any other nourishment, I give an order on some shop for those articles to be provided, and get a bill for them afterwards, on the following week, which I lay before the board of guardians, and I get the chairman's signature, allowing it.

9036. In the case of a new application, the circumstances of which you are not acquainted with, what means do you take to inform yourself of the circumstances of a new case; if a person comes and applies to you, wanting relief, under any circumstances that may arise, either the illness of some of his family, or old people requiring any variation in their relief?—There are very few cases, comparatively speaking, that can be brought to me but what I have a knowledge of the family, and I mostly know whether they are telling me the truth or not.

9037. Is it your practice, invariably, in a new case, to go to the house, in order to ascertain what is the real condition of the family making the application?—If they are strangers to me, and I want to know any thing about the family more than I do know, I should visit the cottage; if I know the family and am sufficiently acquainted

acquainted with them to know whether they had told me the truth, of course I lay the case before the board of guardians on the following board-day.

9038. In the old cases, that is, cases that have been under your consideration before, you would not think it necessary; but have you, in those cases, taken any steps by going to their cottages to inform yourself of the real condition of the family?—I have, in many instances.

9039. Do you think, generally, of those who have received relief at Houghton, or in other parishes, you have at any time been at their cottages, in order to make yourself acquainted with their cases?—I have.

9040. Supposing a case of this sort were to be represented to you, that a person were to come to you and to state himself to be out of work, and in want of the necessaries of life, and to be in destitution, what should you do?—I should, most probably, give him an order to go into the workhouse.

9041. Suppose that he were to state, at the same time, that he was out of work, and in great want, and that one of his family were ill, what should you do in that case?—If one of his family were ill, if it were one of the children, too ill to be removed, I should give him an order for the doctor; I should let the doctor see it, and be guided by the instructions of the doctor as to what course to pursue.

9042. Supposing it were to be a case in which the illness should increase the expenses of the family; suppose, for instance, that the wife were ill, and that some additional superintendence were required, to cook the victuals, or to take care of the children, and the man were exposed, therefore, to inconvenience and additional expense, and in consequence of the illness of his wife, she were unable to be removed to the workhouse, what course should you take?—I should order a nurse myself, and pay for it, laying the case before the board on the following Thursday.

9043. I put the case of a man whose wife was ill, rendering it impossible for her to be removed to the workhouse immediately, what would be your practice?—To relieve the family according to their necessities; according to the recommendation of the medical officer, and to allow a nurse if he thought it necessary.

9044. In such a case, the state of the head of the family making it impossible that she should be removed to the workhouse, if you had ascertained that they were in want of the necessaries of life, should you think it necessary, during the time that they were unable to be removed to the workhouse, to provide them with the necessaries of existence?—Yes.

9045. How would you judge of the state of destitution, if a new case were to be presented to you?—I should not only inform myself by going to the man's house, but by inquiring of the neighbouring farmers, because you cannot always satisfy yourself by going to the man's house, the appearance of destitution does not always constitute it.

9046. But you would take all the means in your power, by observation and inquiry among the farmers, to satisfy yourself of the condition of the family?—Yes.

9047. Where do you go from Houghton?—To Hawnes.

9048. At what time do you get to Hawnes?—A little after nine.

9049. What is the population of Hawnes?—Eight hundred and forty-seven.

9050. How long do you stay at Hawnes?—About the same time usually as at Houghton.

9051. And you act in all respects in the same manner?—Yes.

9052. Where do you relieve the people at Hawnes?—At a room hired for the purpose.

9053. Where is that?—Opposite the church.

9054. The room is not either at a shop or a public-house?—No, it is not.

9055. From Hawnes where do you go?—To Clophill.

9056. At what hour do you arrive there?—I arrive there generally at half past ten.

9057. Those are your hours in summer?—Yes.

9058. You would be an hour later in winter?—Yes.

9059. What is the population of the parish of Clophill?—Nine hundred and seventy-eight.

9060. Where do you pay the poor, at Clophill?—At the old workhouse.

9061. Have you a room to yourself?—Yes, there I have; at least there is but one room, and when many paupers are congregated I have not a room to myself.

9062. The same objection applies to Clophill as to Houghton?—Yes.

 9063. How

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9063. How long do you stay at Clophill?—I should think about the same time, from three quarters of an hour, or from that to an hour; Clophill is rather a large parish, and I think I remain nearly an hour.

9064. Can you tell what number of paupers you have to relieve at those three parishes?—I relieve 55 in the parish of Houghton; and at Hawnes 50, and at Clophill 62; that is the average number.

9065. Where do you go from Clophill?—To Gravenhurst, Upper and Lower Gravenhurst; Lower Gravenhurst is a mere nominal parish, there is but one pauper in it.

9066. At what time do you reach Gravenhurst?—About half-past eleven.

9067. What is the population of Gravenhurst?—Three hundred and eighteen of Upper Gravenhurst, and 77 the population of Lower Gravenhurst.

9068. How long are you there?—Not long; I have to pay the paupers in the street there.

9069. Do you mean that no room has been provided?—None whatever; no place in which to pay the people at all; I have to pay them under a shower of rain many times; and that I apprehend to be the case to which Mr. Turner alludes, when he says, that I sometimes pay the paupers in my gig, which I have done when I have had no shelter in a heavy shower of rain.

9070. Have you ever made any representation to the board of guardians upon not being allowed a room in which to pay the paupers?—I have, but they have not provided any thing of the kind; I have not done so within the last two years, but they are quite aware of it; but no room for this purpose, I think, could be got in Upper Gravenhurst.

9071. What is the number of paupers?—The average number of paupers in Upper Gravenhurst is 25, and in Lower Gravenhurst at present only one pauper; there have been as many as five.

9072. Where do you go from Gravenhurst?—Shitlington.

9073. At what time do you get to Shitlington?—About half-past twelve: the population of Shitlington is 1,307.

9074. How long are you there?—About an hour and a half.

9075. Where do you pay the poor there?—In a public-house; I did pay in the church, but the minister of the parish prohibited it.

9076. Is there a vestry-room?—Yes; he prohibited my paying in the vestry-room.

9077. Would he not let you pay in the vestry-room?—No, he would not, because the vestry-room you cannot enter without entering the church, and he objected to that.

9078. What number of paupers are there at Shitlington?—About 80.

9079. What do you do afterwards on Friday?—Pay Higham, which is a nominal parish, from the small number of paupers; there are but two or three receiving relief, and they are very old people.

9080. At what time do you get to Higham?—Two o'clock.

9081. What is the population?—One hundred and eight.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX - - - - - - - -

No. 1.—A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Condition of Six Labourers (three in Constant Work, and three not in

PARISH OF LIDLINGTON.

	In Constant Work.			Not in Constant Work.		
Name of Labourer	*John Capon.*	*John Sissick.*	*Joseph Taylor.*	*William Lancaster.*	*Henry Deacon*	*Michael Reed.*
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Age of Labourer	41	26	28	42	41	37
Work employed on	Carter.	Jobbing.	Dairyman.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.
Wife or not	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.
Children living with Parents	7	2	3	4	6	4
Age of oldest child	16	3	4	8	15	14
Age of youngest child	1	1	1	1	1	1
Weeks Labourer was employed in 1834	52	52	52	47	52	35
Rate of Wages per week	- 11 -	- 9 -	- 11 -	- 9 -	- 9 -	- 9 -
Amount of Wages of Labourer at his Employment	28 12 -	23 8 -	28 12 -	21 3 -	23 8 -	15 15 -
Additional for Harvests	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -
Amount of Earnings of Labourer's Wife and Children	19 10 -	2 12 -	2 12 -	2 12 -	18 4 -	10 8 -
Additional for Gleaning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Allowance from Parish for Work and Relief for Labourer and Family	- - -	- - -	- - -	2 5 -	- 6 -	5 19 9
Total Income of Family	50 2 -	28 - -	33 4 -	28 - -	43 18 -	34 2 9
Outgoings for Rent, Fuel and Clubs	6 10 6	6 1 -	4 11 -	8 6 -	7 4 -	3 18 -
Net Income applicable for Food, Clothing, Soap, Candles and other necessaries	43 11 6	21 19 -	28 13 -	19 14 -	36 14 -	30 4 9
Average Income per head per week	- 1 10 1/4	- 2 2 1/4	- 2 2 1/4	- 1 2	- 1 9	- 1 11
Average Pints of Wheat per head per week	20 6/10	24 3/10	24 3/10	13	19 4/10	21 3/10
Work employed on in 1837	Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Thresning.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.
Number of Weeks employed	50	52	52	52	44	44
Rate of Wages per week	- 10 -	- 9 -	8*s.* and 9*s.*	- 9 -	- 9 -	- 8 -
Amount of Wages of Labourer at his Employment	25 - -	23 8 -	22 2 -	23 8 -	19 16 -	17 12 -
Additional for Harvests	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -	1 14 -	1 - -	2 - -
Earnings of Labourer's Wife and Children	14 19 -	2 12 -	2 12 -	5 4 -	22 2 -	17 8 -
Additional for Gleaning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Allowance from Parish	- 6 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Total Income of Family	40 5 -	28 - -	26 14 -	30 6 -	42 18 -	37 - -
Outgoings for Rent, Fuel and Clubs	8 10 2	6 10 -	4 11 -	8 6 -	7 6 -	4 12 -
Net Income applicable for Food, Clothing, Soap, Candles and other necessaries	31 14 10	21 10 -	22 3 -	22 - -	35 12 -	32 8 -
Number of Persons in Labourer's Family	8	5	6	7	9	7
Average Income per head per week in 1837	- 1 6 1/4	- 1 7 3/4	- 1 5	- 1 2 1/2	- 1 6 1/4	- 1 9 1/4
Average Pints of Wheat per head per week	14	15 2/10	13	11 1/10	14	16 3/10

No. 2.—A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Condition of Six Labourers (three in Constant Work, and three not in

PARISH OF CRANFIELD.

	In Constant Work.			Not in Constant Work.		
Name of Labourer	*Joel Brewer.*	*John Ford.*	*George Wilson.*	*Joseph West.*	*George Taylor.*	*John Odell.*
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Age of Labourer	29	26	41	30	33	30
Work employed on	Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Thresher.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.
Wife or not	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.
Children living with Parents	3	3	5	2	5	3
Age of oldest child	6	5	14	4	11	6
Age of youngest child	1	1	1	2	1	1
Weeks Labourer was employed in 1834	52	52	52	37	43	26
Rate of Wages per week	- 9 -	- 9 -	- 9 -	- 8 -	- 8 -	- 9 -
Amount of Wages of Labourer at his Employment	23 8 -	23 6 -	23 8 -	14 16 -	17 4 -	11 14 -
Additional for Harvests	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -
Amount of Earnings of Labourer's Wife and Children	5 4 -	3 18 -	14 6 -	5 4 -	6 10 -	2 12 -
Additional for Gleaning	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Allowance from Parish for Work and Relief for Labourer and Family	- - -	- - -	- 15 6	5 6 3	7 14 -	10 6 1
Total Income of Family	30 12 -	29 6 -	40 9 6	27 6 3	33 8 -	26 12 1
Outgoings for Rent, Fuel and Clubs	6 8 -	6 8 -	6 8 -	6 18 -	6 10 -	6 8 -
Net Income applicable for Food, Clothing, Soap, Candles and other necessaries	24 4 -	22 18 -	34 1 6	20 8 3	26 18 -	20 4 1
Average Income per head per week	- 1 10	- 1 9	- 1 10 1/2	- 1 11 1/2	- 1 5 1/4	- 1 6 1/2
Average Pints of Wheat per head per week	20 3/10	19 4/10	20 8/10	21 7/10	16 4/10	17 1/10
Work employed on in 1837	Thresher.	Jobbing.	Thresher.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.
Number of Weeks employed	52	52	52	36	48	36
Rate of Wages per week	- 10 -	- 9 -	- 10 -	- 8 -	- 9 -	- 8 -
Amount of Wages of Labourer at his Employment	26 - -	23 8 -	26 - -	14 8 -	21 12 -	14 8 -
Additional for Harvests	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -	2 - -
Earnings of Labourer's Wife and Children	7 6 -	5 4 -	15 - -	5 4 -	14 6 -	5 4 -
Additional for Gleaning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Allowance from Parish	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Income of Family	35 6 -	30 12 -	43 - -	21 12 -	37 18 -	21 12 -
Outgoings for Rent, Fuel and Clubs	6 14 8	6 12 -	6 8 -	5 18 -	6 13 -	6 8 -
Net Income applicable for Food, Clothing, Soap, Candles and other necessaries	28 11 4	24 - -	36 12 -	15 14 -	31 5 -	15 4 -
Number of Persons in Labourer's Family	6	6	6	5	8	5
Average Income per head per week in 1837	- 1 9	- 1 6 1/4	- 2 4	- 1 2 1/2	- 1 6	- 1 2
Average Pints of Wheat per head per week	16 1/10	14	21 5/10	11 1/10	13 6/10	10 7/10

This Table shows an average reduction of Income per Head in Money of those in full employment, in 1834 & 1837, of 7 per cent.

APPENDIX.

Constant Work), in each of the Parishes of *Lidlington*, *Milbrook*, and *Maulden*, in the *Ampthill Union*, in the Years 1834 and 1837.

PARISH OF MILBROOK.

In Constant Work.			Not in Constant Work.		
Henry Roberts.	*John Bunker.*	*James Bunker.*	*James Walker.*	*Barnard Goodman.*	*James Peters.*
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
25 Shepherd.	30 Thresher.	27 Thresher.	29 Jobbing.	24 Jobbing.	44 Thresher.
Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.
2	4	2	2	2	4
3	10	5	4	3	8
1	1	2	1	1	1
52	52	52	52	37	52
– 8 –	– 10 –	– 10 –	– 8 –	– 9 –	– 9 –
20 16 –	26 – –	26 – –	20 16 –	16 13 –	23 8 –
– –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –
2 12 –	9 18 –	2 12 –	2 14 –	2 12 –	2 12 –
—	—	—	—	—	—
1 8 –	3 1 6	– –	5 4 –	5 7 1	2 1 –
24 16 –	40 19 6	30 12 –	30 14 –	26 12 1	30 1 –
6 10 –	6 3 –	5 18 –	6 10 –	6 10 –	6 8 –
18 6 –	34 16 6	24 14 –	24 4 –	20 2 –	23 13 –
– 1 9	– 2 $2\frac{1}{2}$	– 2 $2\frac{3}{4}$	– 2 2	– 1 11	– 1 6
$19\frac{4}{10}$	$24\frac{6}{10}$	$24\frac{7}{10}$	24	$21\frac{3}{10}$	$16\frac{7}{10}$
Shepherd.	Jobbing.	Thresher.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Thresher.
52	52	52	38	36	52
– 9 –	– 9 –	9s. & 10s.	– 9 –	– 9 –	– 9 –
23 8 –	23 8 –	24 14 –	17 2 –	16 4 –	23 8 –
– –	4 – –	2 – –	2 – –	– –	2 – –
3 18 –	11 4 –	5 4 –	7 3 –	2 12 –	6 10 –
—	—	—	—	—	—
5 4 –	– 5 –	– –	– 5 –	– –	– –
32 10 –	38 17 –	31 18 –	26 10 –	18 16 –	31 18 –
7 8 –	6 19 –	6 14 –	6 10 –	7 2 –	7 2 8
25 2 –	31 18 –	25 4 –	20 – –	11 14 –	24 15 4
6	7	6	5	5	7
– 1 7	– 1 9	– 1 $7\frac{1}{4}$	– 1 6	– – $10\frac{3}{4}$	– – $9\frac{3}{4}$
$14\frac{6}{10}$	$16\frac{1}{10}$	$14\frac{8}{10}$	$13\frac{8}{10}$	$8\frac{2}{10}$	$7\frac{5}{10}$

PARISH OF MAULDEN.

In Constant Work.			Not in Constant Work.		
William Fisher.	*Daniel Keach.*	*William Robinson.*	*Edward Cole.*	*John Morrison.*	*William Robinson.*
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
41 Jobbing.	38 Jobbing.	38 Thresher.	30 Jobbing.	26 Jobbing.	32 Thresher.
Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.
3	3	5	2	3	4
12	8	10	3	5	8
1	1	1	1	1	1
52	52	52	52	52	52
– 8 –	– 9 –	– 11 –	– 9 –	– 9 –	– 11 –
20 16 –	23 8 –	28 12 –	23 8 –	23 8 –	28 12 –
3 – –	3 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –
7 16 –	5 4 –	6 10 –	5 4 –	2 12 –	2 12 –
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—
31 12 –	31 12 –	37 2 –	30 12 –	28 – –	33 4 –
7 18 –	6 18 –	7 18 –	7 8 –	6 18 –	3 10 –
23 14 –	24 14 4	29 4 –	23 4 –	21 2 –	29 14 –
– 1 $9\frac{3}{4}$	– 1 $10\frac{3}{4}$	– 1 7	– 2 $1\frac{1}{4}$	– 1 $7\frac{1}{4}$	– 1 $9\frac{1}{4}$
$20\frac{1}{10}$	21	$17\frac{6}{10}$	$23\frac{3}{10}$	$17\frac{8}{10}$	$19\frac{9}{10}$
Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Thresher.
52	52	52	32	46	37
– 9 –	– 9 –	9s. & 11s.	– 9 –	– 9 –	– 10 –
23 8 –	23 8 –	26 – –	14 8 –	20 14 –	18 10 –
3 – –	4 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	—
7 16 –	7 16 –	7 16 –	3 18 –	5 4 –	9 7 –
—	—	—	—	—	—
– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	3 10 –
34 4 –	35 4 –	35 16 –	20 6 –	27 18 –	31 7 –
8 10 –	7 16 –	8 16 –	4 12 –	7 16 –	7 16 –
25 14 –	27 8 –	27 – –	15 14 –	20 2 –	23 11 –
5	7	7	5	7	6
– 1 $11\frac{1}{2}$	– 1 $6\frac{1}{4}$	– 1 $5\frac{1}{4}$	– 1 $2\frac{1}{4}$	– 1 1	– 1 6
18	14	$13\frac{6}{10}$	$10\frac{9}{10}$	10	$13\frac{8}{10}$

Constant Work), in each of the Parishes of *Cranfield*, *Shitlington* and *Flitwick*, in the *Ampthill Union*, in the Years 1834 and 1837.

PARISH OF SHITLINGTON.

In Constant Work.			Not in Constant Work.		
George Hare.	*William Weston.*	*William Ingram.*	*Joseph Burnage.*	*John Cox.*	*Joseph Denton.*
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
44 Thresher.	44 Thresher.	42 Carter.	33 Jobbing.	31 Thresher.	26 Jobbing.
Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.
5	5	5	3	3	1
13	13	14	6	5	1
1	1	2	2	1	1
52	52	52	39	52	47
– 11 –	– 10 –	– 10 –	– 9 –	9s. & 10s.	– 9 –
28 12 –	26 – –	26 – –	17 11 –	24 14 –	21 3 –
2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –
10 8 –	13 – –	14 6 –	5 4 –	5 12 –	5 4 –
– –	– –	– –	– 10 –	—	—
– –	2 17 8	– –	4 19 4	– –	1 7 –
41 – –	43 17 8	42 6 –	30 4 4	32 6 –	29 14 –
6 18 –	6 8 –	6 10 –	3 12 –	9 18 –	6 10 –
34 2 –	37 9 8	35 16 –	26 12 4	22 8 –	23 4 –
– 1 $10\frac{1}{2}$	– 2 $-\frac{1}{2}$	– 1 $11\frac{1}{2}$	– 2 $-\frac{1}{2}$	– 1 $8\frac{1}{2}$	– 2 $11\frac{1}{2}$
$20\frac{8}{10}$	$22\frac{6}{10}$	$21\frac{7}{10}$	$22\frac{6}{10}$	19	$32\frac{8}{10}$
Thresher.	Thresher.	Carter.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.
52	52	52	40	46	52
– 11 –	– 10 –	– 10 –	– 8 –	– 9 –	– 9 –
28 12 –	26 – –	26 – –	16 – –	20 14 –	23 8 –
2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –
13 – –	22 2 –	20 16 –	7 16 –	10 16 –	2 12 –
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—
43 12 –	50 2 –	48 16 –	25 16 –	33 10 –	28 – –
6 18 –	6 12 –	6 10 –	3 12 –	9 18 –	7 8 –
36 14 –	43 10 –	42 6 –	22 4 –	23 12 –	20 12 –
7	8 –	8	6	7	4
– 2 –	– 2 1	– 2 $-\frac{1}{2}$	– 1 5	– 1 $3\frac{1}{2}$	– 1 $11\frac{1}{2}$
$18\frac{1}{10}$	$19\frac{3}{10}$	$18\frac{5}{10}$	13	$11\frac{5}{10}$	$18\frac{5}{10}$

PARISH OF FLITWICK.

In Constant Work.			Not in Constant Work.		
John Balls.	*Daniel Page.*	*William Horne.*	*James Edwards.*	*James Odell.*	*John Chapman.*
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
51 Jobbing.	36 Thresher.	43 Jobbing.	42 Jobbing.	25 Jobbing.	32 Jobbing.
Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.	Wife.
4	6	6	3	3	4
12	16	16	11	7	11
1	1	1	2	2	1
52	52	52	25	52	52
– 12 –	– 13 –	– 9 –	– 9 –	– 9 –	– 9 –
31 4 –	33 16 –	23 8 –	11 5 –	23 8 –	23 8
2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	2 – –
5 4 –	18 4 –	27 6 –	6 10 –	2 12 –	5 4 –
—	—	—	—	—	—
– 12 –	1 16 –	10 1 2	—	—	—
38 8 –	54 12 –	54 10 –	29 16 2	28 – –	30 12 –
6 18 –	6 13 –	7 1 –	6 18 –	4 2 –	6 18 –
47 19 –	47 9 –	22 18 2	23 18 –	23 14 –	
– 2 $3\frac{1}{2}$	– 2 $3\frac{1}{2}$	– 1 9	– 1 10	– 1 6	
$25\frac{4}{10}$	$25\frac{3}{10}$	$19\frac{4}{10}$	$20\frac{3}{10}$	$16\frac{7}{10}$	
Thresher.	Jobbing.	Jobbing.	Jobbing & Railroad.	Railroad.	
52	52	39	28 & 16	38	
– 11 –	– 9 –	– 9 –	9s. & 12s.6d.	– 12 6	
28 12 –	23 8 –	17 11 –	22 12 –	23 15 –	
2 – –	2 – –	2 – –	—	—	
10 8 –	20 8 –	11 10 –	2 12 –	7 16 –	
—	—	—	—	—	
—	—	—	—	—	
43 12 –	51 – –	42 2 –	31 1 –	25 4 –	31 11 –
7 14 4	7 8 –	7 16 –	6 18 –	4 2 –	6 18 –
35 17 8	43 12 –	33 6 –	24 3 –	21 2 –	24 13 –
8	10	7	6	6	6
– 1 $8\frac{1}{2}$	– 1 8	– 1 $9\frac{1}{4}$	– 1 6	– 1 4	– 1 $6\frac{1}{4}$
$15\frac{7}{10}$	$15\frac{1}{10}$	$16\frac{7}{10}$	$14\frac{2}{10}$	$12\frac{1}{10}$	$14\frac{1}{10}$

and, in Wheat, of 22 per cent.; and, of those not in constant employ, of $20\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Money, and, in Wheat, of 33 per cent.

WOBURN UNION WORKHOUSE.

NEW DIETARY

For Able-bodied Men and Women in Woburn Union Workhouse, adopted 16 April 1838.

		Breakfast.		Dinner.					Supper.		
		Bread.	Gruel.	Cooked Meat.	Bread.	Potatoes.	Soup.	Suet or Rice Pudding, or Cheese one Ounce.	Bread.	Cheese or Butter.	Broth.
		oz.	pints.	oz.	oz.	lb.	pints.	oz.	oz.	oz.	pints.
Sunday	Men	6	1 1/2	4	4	1/2	-	-	6	-	1 1/2
	Women	5	1 1/2	4	4	1/2	-	-	5	-	1 1/2
Monday	Men	6	1 1/2	-	4	-	-	16	6	1	
	Women	5	1 1/2	-	4	-	-	14	5	1	
Tuesday	Men	6	1 1/2	4	4	1/2	-	-	6	1	
	Women	5	1 1/2	4	4	1/2	-	-	5	1	
Wednesday	Men	6	1 1/2	-	4	-	1 1/2	-	6	1	
	Women	5	1 1/2	-	4	-	1 1/2	-	5	1	
Thursday	Men	6	1 1/2	4	4	1/2	-	-	6	-	1 1/2
	Women	5	1 1/2	4	4	1/2	-	-	5	-	1 1/2
Friday	Men	6	1 1/2	-	4	-	-	16	6	1	
	Women	5	1 1/2	-	4	-	-	14	5	1	
Saturday	Men	6	1 1/2	-	12	-	-	1	6	1	
	Women	5	1 1/2	-	11	-	-	1	5	1	

Old people, of 60 years of age and upwards, may be allowed tea in the following quantities: one ounce each per week, to a number not exceeding seven; seven ounces to a number exceeding seven, and not exceeding nine; eight ounces to a number exceeding nine and not exceeding eleven; seven ounces of butter and eight ounces of sugar each per week, in lieu of gruel for breakfast.

Able-bodied women, employed in washing, may be allowed at the rate of half an ounce of tea and three ounces of sugar each, for every three days actually so employed, in lieu of gruel for breakfast, if so desired.

Children, under nine years of age, to be dieted at discretion; above nine, to be allowed the same quantities as women.

Sick, to be dieted as directed by the medical officer.

N. B.—By the most accurate calculation, the increase of expense on this dietary, as compared with the old, does not exceed three farthings per head per week.

William Cole, Clerk.

LATE DIETARY

For Able-bodied Men and Women in Woburn Union Workhouse.

		Breakfast.		Dinner.				Supper.		
		Bread.	Gruel.	Cooked Meat.	Cooked Potatoes in their Skins.	Soup.	Suet or Rice Pudding.	Bread.	Cheese or Butter.	Broth.
		oz.	pints.	oz.	lb.	pints.	oz.	oz.	oz.	pints.
Sunday	Men	6	1 1/2	4	1	-	-	6	1	
	Women	5	1 1/2	4	1	-	-	5	1	
Monday	Men	6	1 1/2	-	1/2	1 1/2	-	6	1	
	Women	5	1 1/2	-	1/2	1 1/2	-	5	1	
Tuesday	Men	6	1 1/2	4	1	-	-	6	1	
	Women	5	1 1/2	4	1	-	-	5	1	
Wednesday	Men	6	1 1/2	-	1/2	1 1/2	-	6	1	
	Women	5	1 1/2	-	1/2	1 1/2	-	5	1	
Thursday	Men	6	1 1/2	4	1	-	-	6	-	1 1/2
	Women	5	1 1/2	4	1	-	-	5	-	1 1/2
Friday	Men	6	1 1/2	-	-	-	16	6	1	
	Women	5	1 1/2	-	-	-	14	5	1	
Saturday	Men	6	1 1/2	-	1/2	1 1/2	-	6	1	
	Women	5	1 1/2	-	1/2	1 1/2	-	5	1	

Old people, of 60 years of age and upwards, may be allowed on meat days, two ounces of bread, in lieu of half the quantity of potatoes; and on soup days, four ounces of bread instead of potatoes, for dinner; as also the able-bodied women, when actually employed in washing.

Old people, as above, may be allowed tea in the following quantities: one ounce each per week, to a number not exceeding seven; seven ounces to a number exceeding seven and not exceeding nine; eight ounces to a number exceeding nine and not exceeding eleven; seven ounces of butter and eight ounces of sugar each per week, instead of gruel for breakfast.

Able bodied women, employed in washing, may be allowed at the rate of half an ounce of tea and three ounces of sugar each, for every three days actually so employed, in lieu of gruel for breakfast, if so desired.

Children, under nine years of age, to be dieted at discretion; above nine, to be allowed the same quantities as women.

Sick, to be dieted as directed by the medical officer.

William Cole, Clerk.

TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
8 *May* 1838.

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TWENTY-NINTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
9 *May* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.	Mr. Ward.
Mr. Fazakerley.	Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Richard Walker.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.	Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Baines.	Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Lister.	Mr. Chichester.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.	Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. Liddell.	Mr. John Fielden.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).	

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

THE REPORT - - - - - - - - - - - - p. iii
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - - - - - - p. 1
APPENDIX - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 29

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the RELIEF of the POOR under the Orders and Regulations issued by the COMMISSIONERS appointed under the Provisions of the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT; and who were empowered to report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them from time to time to THE HOUSE;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

9 *May* 1838.

WITNESSES.

Mr. *Mark Crabtree* - - - - p. 1

Mr. *John Marshall* - - - - p. 1 & 13

George Pearce, Esq. - - - - p. 11 & 27

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Mercurii, 9° die Maii, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Langdale.
Mr. Estcourt.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Walker.
Lord Howick.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Mark Crabtree*, again called in ; and further Examined.

Mr. *Mark Crabtree*

9 May 1838.

9082. *Chairman.*] HAVE you any names to put in?—Mr. Barneby asked me the numbers that were out of work in Marston, and I was asked to deliver in a list, which I will now do ; Thomas Woodall, Richard Knight, Thomas Bunker, Charles Bunker, Joseph Valentine, Edward Chandler, Enoch Sanders, Stephen Two, John Kitchen, James Bunker, Samuel Jellets, William Kitchen, John Jellets, Peter Pilgrim, Thomas Goodman.

9083. You alluded to a passage, as having appeared in some Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, stating that the people were in the habit of frequenting the public-houses as much as ever ; have you discovered any such passage in the Report of the Commissioners?—I have discovered it in communications sent to Mr. Adey, and it is inserted in the Commissioners' Report.

9084. Do not you find that the passage which you refer to is not in a Report of the Commissioners, but is, as you now say, in one of the several communications sent to Mr. Adey by Mr. Snitch?—Yes.

9085. And if you turn to the same page you will find that those communications sent to Mr. Adey, and by him published in his Report, are very various ; expressing different opinions from different individuals upon the same subject ; because in the same page you will find that in another communication also sent by Mr. Snitch and published by Mr. Adey, there is an opinion from another person, also anonymous, stating that they do not frequent the public-houses so much as usual?—Yes, there are different opinions.

9086. Mr. *Barneby.*] Are those names you have given the names of persons all resident in the parish of Marston?—They are.

9087. Mr. *Miles.*] Were those persons out of work when you were there?—Yes ; and while we were down there lately we heard that as many were still out of work.

9088. Were those persons out of employment for any length of time, or only casually?—Some have been out of work for a fortnight and some six weeks ; they are employed at various times and seasons ; for instance, from hay time to harvest ; and from harvest they would lie by a while.

9089. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have been down, during the Easter recess, to Ampthill?—Yes.

9090. Did you find many out of employ on that occasion?—A great many.

Mr. *John Marshall*, again called in ; and further Examined.

Mr. *John Marshall.*

9091. *Chairman.*] YOU were describing to the Committee yesterday your occupation, day by day, during the week ; you were speaking of the Friday, and you had described what you did in the parishes of Houghton, Hawnes, Clophill, Gravenhurst and Shitlington, and were proceeding to describe what you did in Higham-Gobion?—There are two or three old people to pay there.

9092. You arrive at two o'clock?—Yes.

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9093. The population is 108?—Yes.

9094. How long do you stay?—A very few minutes.

9095. What is the number of paupers?—Three sometimes, and sometimes only two or one.

9096. Where do you pay the poor at Higham?—In the street; there is no poor-house, or any thing of the kind.

9097. Would it be possible to hire a room at Higham-Gobion?—I should not think that one would be required; but I think it would be hardly possible to get one; but if it would be possible, I do not think it would be required to pay a couple of old people.

9098. What other place do you go to on Friday?—I go from thence to Silsoe.

9099. At what time do you arrive there?—Half-past two.

9100. Is it very near Higham?—Yes.

9101. What is the population?—Seven hundred and twenty-six.

9102. What time do you remain there?—I remain at Silsoe generally from a quarter of an hour to 20 minutes, or as long as necessity requires it.

9103. Where do you pay them in Silsoe?—In the church-porch.

9104. What number of paupers are there generally there?—Twenty-four.

9105. Do you find any inconvenience in paying them in the porch of the church?—None.

9106. In very bad weather is it not inconvenient?—The porch is screened, it is not an open porch.

9107. And you do not remain above a quarter of an hour?—A quarter of an hour or 20 minutes.

9108. Supposing a person in the place wishes to make application to you; supposing any new cases to arise of relief in Silsoe, a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes would be all the time you have to remain in Silsoe?—No; if those cases arise, I stop till I dispose of them, whatever time it may occupy; I am speaking now of ordinary cases.

9109. From Silsoe where do you go?—To Maulden.

9110. At what time do you arrive in Maulden?—Three o'clock, or a little after.

9111. A quarter past three?—Yes.

9112. What is the population of Maulden?—One thousand two hundred and thirty-one.

9113. How long do you remain at Maulden?—Usually to pretty nearly four.

9114. That is about three quarters of an hour?—Yes.

9115. Where do you pay them at Maulden?—In the school-room.

9116. Have you a room to yourself, and the paupers who are there at the time you pay them?—Yes, there are no other persons there but the paupers; it is the most convenient place that I have.

9117. What is the number of the paupers?—Sixty-four.

9118. Where do you go from Maulden?—I have done on that day.

9119. What do you do on Saturday?—Go to Lidlington, in the first instance.

9120. At what time do you get to that parish?—Nine o'clock.

9121. What is the population of Lidlington?—Eight hundred and fourteen.

9122. What time do you stay there?—It usually takes me from half to three quarters of an hour.

9123. Where do you pay them there?—In the church-porch.

9124. Is that a convenient place?—Not very; there is no table, but merely a seat to sit down on; but it is much better than many places I have.

9125. The poor in some of those places are very old and infirm persons, who come to be paid?—Yes.

9126. Do not you think that it is desirable that those persons should be sheltered from the inclemency of the weather?—They are sheltered there.

9127. If the wind blew into the porch, would they be sheltered?—No; it would be very desirable to find some spot, and there would be no difficulty in getting it at Lidlington.

9128. What is the number of paupers?—Fifty-three.

9129. What proportion of those are old and infirm people?—Thirty-nine are old and infirm people.

9130. Do they all come to the porch themselves, or are they in the habit of sending persons to fetch the allowance?—Sometimes, perhaps, if they are poorly they do not come, but they get a person to take it.

9131. Have you ever known in that parish, or in any other parish, that when a person sends another to receive the relief for them, any charge has been made by that other person?—No, I have not.

9132. Have you known one person to come to receive the relief for a great many of the poor, and to make a deduction from their relief as a charge for the trouble of collecting it?—No. When I first paid that union, they used to be in the habit of applying for a number of people in that way, but I declined to pay them. I paid them in the first instance, but I afterwards declined, giving notice that I should not pay but to the person entitled to it, unless they could show that that person was not able to attend.

9133. In that case, what practice did you adopt?—Those people who were not able to attend, I allowed another to take their money.

9134. They send a neighbour, and occasionally they send a child, to take the money, do they not?—Yes.

9135. Have you ascertained that, previously to your undertaking the management of the relief of those persons, persons had been in the habit of receiving money for the poor, and had made any charge for receiving it?—No; but my apprehension was, if I could not prove the delivery of the money, that there might be some mistake.

9136. From Lidlington where do you go?—To Marston.

9137. What time do you get to Marston?—Ten o'clock.

9138. What is the population?—One thousand and seven.

9139. What time do you stay there generally?—About an hour.

9140. Where do you relieve them?—In a house belonging to the parish, in which there is another person who is allowed to live there, not rent-free, but something under what they would otherwise have paid.

9141. Do you pay them in a room by themselves?—No; in a room where that person lives.

9142. Is that an interruption to you?—It is not in that instance, because there is nothing but an old woman there, and I do not object to her being there.

9143. What is the number of the poor there?—Eighty-six.

9144. Is that parish house at a considerable distance from the residence of any of those poor persons?—Not far, it is very central in the parish.

9145. Where next do you go?—To Cranfield.

9146. What time do you get to Cranfield?—A quarter before twelve.

9147. What is the population?—One thousand two hundred and sixty.

9148. What time do you stay there?—Usually about an hour.

9149. Where do you pay them?—In the school-room.

9150. Is that a private room?—No, it is a national school.

9151. Have you, at the time of paying the poor, that room to your own use?—Entirely.

9152. What is the number of the paupers?—Sixty-nine.

9153. Where do you go next?—To Milbrook.

9154. At what time do you reach Milbrook?—Usually about half past one.

9155. What is the population?—Six hundred and two.

9156. How long do you stay there?—About a quarter of an hour.

9157. Where do you pay them?—At a shop that was formerly the old workhouse, but is now converted into a shop, partially, and I have no other place.

9158. What sort of shop?—A little huxter's shop.

9159. Do not you consider that a very improper place to pay the poor in?—I do not like to pay them there; I would much rather pay them any where else, but there is no other place, unless I went to the public-house, which I should consider still more objectionable.

9160. The parish has not provided a room?—No, there are only 20 paupers; if they chose to hire a room they could very easily get one.

9161. Where do you next go?—To Ampthill.

9162. Do you pay the poor at Ampthill on that day?—Yes.

9163. At what time do you get back to Ampthill?—I pay the poor at four o'clock in the afternoon; I usually dine first, when I get back.

9164. What is the population of Ampthill?—One thousand six hundred and eighty-eight.

9165. What time does it take you to pay the poor there, generally?—About an hour.

9166. Where do you pay them?—In the union workhouse.

 9167. What

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9167. What is the number of paupers?—Forty-five is the average number.

9168. Then comes Sunday; what do you do on Monday?—I go to Flitton first, at nine in the morning; the population of Flitton is 458.

9169. What time do you stay there?—About half an hour.

9170. Where do you pay them?—In the body of the church; the clergyman has not objected.

9171. What is the number of the paupers?—Thirty-four.

9172. Where do you go next?—Pulloxhill.

9173. At what time do you arrive at Pulloxhill?—Ten; the population of Pulloxhill is 529.

9174. What time do you stop there?—Half an hour.

9175. Where do you pay the paupers?—The body of the church.

9176. What is the average number of the poor?—Forty-four.

9177. Where next?—Westoning.

9178. What time do you arrive there?—Eleven; the population of Westoning is 627.

9179. What time do you stay there?—Usually about half or three quarters of an hour, according to whether there are any applications or not.

9180. Where do you pay them?—In the church-porch, exposed to the weather very much; a very inconvenient place for the poor people to come to.

9181. And in bad weather a very improper place for infirm and aged people?—Very improper.

9182. What is the average number of paupers?—Forty-five.

9183. To what place do you next go?—Flitwick.

9184. At what time do you get to Flitwick?—Twelve; the population of Flitwick is 636.

9185. What time do you stay?—About a quarter of an hour usually; there is no place to pay there; I pay them in the open street.

9186. What is the average number of paupers?—Twenty.

9187. To what place do you next go?—Steppingley.

9188. At what time do you arrive there?—One o'clock; the population is 348.

9189. What time do you stay?—About a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes.

9190. Where do you pay?—There is no place provided there; I have gone into a person's house in bad weather, but I pay usually in the street.

9191. What is the average number of paupers?—Eighteen.

9192. Where do you go next?—That is all; those are all the parishes.

9193. Where do you go on the next day?—On Tuesday and Wednesday I make up my accounts, and remain at home to receive applications from poor people who wish to apply to the board.

9194. Is it necessary for you to remain at home to receive applications on those days when probably you are at home every evening after your day's work in those parishes?—Yes, always.

9195. For instance: on Monday, the last parish you stay to relieve is Steppingley, and you are there at one o'clock, therefore you have the whole of Monday evening?—Yes.

9196. Would not one day be perfectly sufficient for you to make up your accounts?—No; there are the accounts of 19 parishes.

9197. Do you take your application-book with you when you go round the several parishes?—A rough one, I do.

9198. Is that rough application-book a blank piece of paper, or is it a paper with a proper printed form?—It is a proper printed form.

9199. In which you make an entry, upon the spot, of an application?—Yes.

9200. That makes it the more easy to transfer the application from that entry to the application-book?—Yes.

9201. Are there any days in the week which you are in the habit of appropriating to visiting the different parishes unexpectedly, and with a view to ascertain the state of the poor?—No.

9202. It appears, from the description which you give of the manner in which your time is occupied and your days distributed during the time you are giving relief, that there would be very little time for you to go into the people's houses to see them occasionally, in order to ascertain whether there was any change in their condition for the better or the worse?—Those people are old people chiefly; the

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the relief is chiefly confined to old people, and, therefore, if there is any change in their circumstances they let me know.

9203. But many of those people who receive relief must be persons receiving relief only occasionally, and people who are ill and require relief from accidental circumstances; judging from the manner in which your time is occupied, it would appear that you have but very little time to go to their houses and see their condition?—I have time whenever I think there is occasion for it.

9204. Do not you think it desirable, without there being occasion shown for it, in order to ascertain really and accurately what the condition of the poor is, that you should devote a part of your time to unexpected and occasional visits at their houses?—I often do that when I am going for other purposes, but not for that purpose; when I am called out to villages upon other occasions I have had an opportunity of observing the habits of the poor, and how far their condition is improved, both from inquiry and observation.

9205. Are you in the habit of making any return in the nature of a diary, in this form, [*Vide* Appendix A.] to the board of guardians, of the manner in which your week is occupied?—No.

9206. You have no such form provided in your union?—No.

9207. The whole of your time being apparently occupied in giving relief, except the Tuesday and Wednesday and Monday afternoon, which you describe as being passed at Ampthill, there is no portion of your time specifically appropriated to occasional and unexpected visits at other times to the parishes?—No, none; not specifically.

9208. You are not in the habit of visiting the parishes of the union above once a week?—Not as a general rule.

9209. Mr. *Miles*.] Supposing then, at the time you leave the Gravenhurst circuit, an application should be made in the parish of Cranfield, for relief in a new case, what should you do?—It would be made to the overseer upon the spot, who has authority, as much as I have, to relieve it.

9210. Have the overseers in their districts so relieved?—They have in many instances.

9211. Have they in all?—They have in very many instances; I do not know that they have in all, because I cannot tell whether they have ever refused any one.

9212. Are any directions left at the different places which you relieve, as to where you are to be found, and where application is to be made to you in cases of necessity?—There are.

9213. What are those directions?—This is one form; those directions have been very freely distributed through the union.

[*The same was delivered in, and read as follows:*]

AMPTHILL UNION.

It appearing to the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union, that the powers vested in overseers, by the 54th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, have been in many cases misconstrued, which enacts that "it shall not be lawful for an overseer of the poor to give any other relief from the poor-rate than such as shall be ordered by the guardians, except in cases of sudden and urgent necessity, in which cases he is required to give such temporary relief as each case shall require in articles of absolute necessity, but not in money," I am directed to observe that the necessity which would justify the interference of an overseer must be real and urgent, and not in any degree fictitious or pretended; and such officer must feel thoroughly persuaded that, by allowing the applicant to remain until the following board day, real danger or serious injury would be likely to result.

In cases of sudden and urgent necessity, such as serious illness, or calamitous accident, if there are proper grounds for supposing that evil would arise from the delay of allowing relief to be administered in its usual course, the overseer has the power of directing relief to be given in medicine, by the medical officer of the district, but the duration of the order is to be limited to such time as will enable the overseer to transfer the case to the relieving officer; and it cannot be too generally known that any description of relief, thus given, will only be valid with reference to a person really destitute of the means of providing it for himself or family.

Taking into consideration the weekly meetings of the board, and the subsequent days on which the parishes are visited by the relieving officer, the guardians are of opinion that comparatively few cases will arise so urgent in their nature as to call for the interference of overseers, but whenever such may happen, much unnecessary trouble will be obviated by a strict and impartial inquiry preparatory to administering relief; the result of which inquiry should be stated by the overseer in the written report he is directed to make to the

Mr. *John Marshall.* relieving officer, by section 20, paragraph 5, of the rules and regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners.

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Signed, by order of the Board,

The Overseers of the Parish of

It is requested that this document may be preserved and transferred to your successors in office.

9214. Are those resolutions of the Ampthill board?—They are.

9215. What is the date of that?—It is always dated at the time it is filled up, but there is no date to this form.

9216. Was this issued at the commencement of the proceedings of the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union, to the overseers?—It was first issued towards the end of 1836, and has since been sent to the overseers as they came into office.

9217. Have any cases occurred in which overseers have relieved, conceiving they were acting up to those instructions, and the amount of that relief has been disallowed by the board of guardians or the overseer?—Never; that brings to my mind the case mentioned in 6808, where the overseer of Steppingley is said to have paid money out of his pocket, and to have had it disallowed; I waited on the overseer of Steppingley to know what case that was, as no such thing has come under my notice, and he was not at home, or at least he was denied; his wife, however, told me that in the case of John Farmer, who lived in the Woburn Union, he had applied for relief; her husband had given him 2*s.*, and that he had spoken to me about it, and I had told him that it was illegal; I am not aware that he did speak to me about it, but if he did, that was the answer I should have given him, because it was a man who lived out of the union, and he gave it in money instead of in kind; that is pointed out by the Act of Parliament.

9218. *Chairman.*] The instructions to the overseers in cases of that description, are, that they should give relief in articles of absolute necessity, but not in money?—They are; there is another case, where the overseer of Marston, Mr. Iliff, says, "I was called upon yesterday to attend James Houghton, who appears very ill; he wished to have Mr. Bull, as he had been taking his medicine; he is apparently destitute, and was taken ill on Sunday last; I have requested Mr. Bull to attend him, and relieved him with necessaries to the amount of 1*s.* 6*d.*;" this bill was given to me and I laid it before the board of guardians, and the chairman writes on the back of it, "This man is a hired yearly servant, and his master bound to keep him;" and that 1*s.* 6*d.* was consequently disallowed; but I have since ascertained that Mr. Iliff received it from the master, Mr. Duncombe.

9219. Have you seen an instructional letter, addressed to various boards of guardians; take this volume, the Report of 1837, in your hand, and look at paragraph 57 of the instructional letter addressed by the Commissioners to the various boards of guardians, and read it?—"In all cases the relieving officer should be required to see and examine, not only the head of the family, but every member of it whose name is presented as parts of the claimants of relief."

9220. Do not you think it exceedingly desirable that that precaution should be taken, in order that the relieving officer may make himself perfectly acquainted with the circumstances of those applying for relief?—If the family is strange to me, I do so, but that is not the case with many families in the union.

9221. But may not the circumstances of the family alter for the better or the worse, such as to make a change in their condition necessary, supposing a year or even a month to have elapsed, which may make it desirable that the relieving officer should inform himself accurately, by application at the house, of the real circumstances of the case?—Yes; but I find that I can get better information from the neighbouring farmer than from the family itself; I do not expect to hear the truth from any part of the family when I ask them.

9222. But do you not think it very material towards forming your opinion of the real condition of any family, that you should go to their house, and examine yourself the condition in which they appear to be?—I think it is necessary, and I act up to it when I think there is a necessity for it.

9223. But in the manner in which your time is occupied, there would appear to be scarcely leisure for you, in many cases, to avail yourself of that opportunity?—Not when a person lives at any considerable distance.

9224. Mr. *Freshfield.*] The difficulty would not be confined to those at a great distance,

distance, but to persons in any place where you have a limited time?—No; I have no rule compelling me to be home at a certain time.

9225. *Chairman.*] Where a person comes and applies for relief in any of those parishes, and you insert the name in the application-book, in order that the case may be determined by the board of guardians, do you, in every case, take care to see the family of the person making the application?—If I do not know them, I do.

9226. Do you make up the pauper description-list; is that one of the forms that you are required to comply with?—That I made up three years ago.

9227. Has that been revised since?—I saw every family at the time I made it, and I have seen every family since that has been entered into it.

9228. Lord *Howick.*] From the statement you have given of the number of paupers, and the population of the different parishes, I observe that there is a great disproportion in the amount of pauperism in different parishes; in the case of Marston, with a population of 1,007, there are 86 paupers, or 1 in 11½; but in Ampthill, in a population of 1,688, there are 45 paupers, or 1 in 37½; so that there is three times as much pauperism in Marston as in Ampthill; can you account for that difference?—Marston was, with the exception of Westoning, the most pauperised parish in the union, and those people have not been cured of their pauperised habits; and we have a long list of old people in Marston, much more so than in Ampthill. In Ampthill there are private charities, from which old people receive some relief, and which causes a less amount of pauperism than in Marston.

9229. Then you attribute the great variations in the proportion of the pauperism to the population in the different parishes, to the degree to which the abuses of the old system had prevailed, and to the greater or less extent of private charity?—I do.

9230. *Chairman.*] It has been stated to the Committee, that in winter, during severe weather, from 30 to 40 in the parish of Ampthill alone were totally unemployed; does that correspond with your observation?—I think not; the names of those people have been promised, but I have not yet seen them. I could form a better opinion if I were favoured with their names.

9231. Has the number of applications made to you, or to the overseers of the parish, complaining of being reduced to great distress for want of occupation, at all corresponded with that number?—Not at all; I have had comparatively very few applications.

9232. Have the overseers mentioned to you that they have received many applications?—No, they have not.

9233. Do you believe that if parties were reduced to great distress they would be deterred from making application either to you or the overseers?—I think not; I see no reason why they should be so; it is a natural consequence, if persons require relief, that they should apply to the only sources from which they can receive it.

9234. It is stated, that parties do not choose to make an application for relief, under the impression that they can receive relief only in the workhouse?—If they are able-bodied out of employ; such has long been the rule in Ampthill, and they are all aware of it.

9235. Are they in the habit of applying for orders of admission into the workhouse?—Not very frequently.

9236. Do you believe that those numbers of able-bodied labourers can be said to be any thing like generally out of employ in the parish of Ampthill?—I think not; there was a total suspension of agricultural labour during the heavy snow, and there might be a good many out of employ just at that time.

9237. How long did that cessation of employment last?—I think about three weeks.

9238. What do you believe that the people did to support themselves during that time?—I see that that question having been asked of Mr. Turner, he stated, "Those people, if they are asked the question, say they cannot tell themselves, but it is chiefly on bread and potatoes." I do not know whether Mr. Turner, in the course of his examination into the poor people's cases, has become acquainted with the assistance they had in the hard weather from public and private charity; whether he knows the quantity of soup and coals that were given away in this and former winters. In the parish of Ampthill alone, there was not a family, the head of which was out of work, or even when they were in work, if the children were more than two, that had not

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soup given them in the hard weather, according to the number of the family; it was given three times a week during the severe weather, and twice a week afterwards, at the rate of a pint to each member of the family; there were 229 families thus relieved with soup twice or thrice a week; and coals were distributed at half-price, that is 1*s.* a hundred weight, four times during the severe weather; between 40 and 50 tons of coals were thus distributed. There is also a clothing club, a feoffee charity, a Dorcas society, a lying-in society, and many benevolent individuals that live there, from which the poor are enabled to live during the hard weather of that kind.

9239. Were those subscriptions for soup and coals raised especially upon that occasion, and with reference to that hard weather?—It is always so during each winter.

9240. And distributed in the manner you describe?—Yes.

9241. You think that that must have been a material assistance to the poor?—Yes.

9242. But, independently of that, have not the families in Ampthill a source in straw-plaiting and lace-making, from which they derive subsistence?—Yes.

9243. That occupation would not be interrupted by hard weather?—Certainly not.

9244. Can you give any notion of the earnings of parties, at different times of life and different ages, in either straw-plaiting or lace-making?—It very much depends upon the industry of the mother, in the first instance, as to whether she brings up her family in a proper manner; but I have no hesitation in saying, that when a family is so brought up, the children, from seven years of age, will be in the receipt of earnings.

9245. Take children eight or ten years of age, what do you suppose they could earn at straw-plaiting?—At straw-plaiting I should say that a child at eight years of age would earn 1*s.* a week.

9246. Take a young woman of 18 or 19, what would she earn?—Five or six shillings a week, and I say that from particular inquiry.

9247. Is that an unusually skilful or good plaiter?—I should say an ordinary plaiter would earn 5*s.* a week; and in the cases of skilful plaiters about Westoning, who are in the habit of plaiting bents, I should say they could earn 7*s.*

9248. Are the plaiters of Ampthill exposed to any disadvantage from the want of a plait market?—Not at all.

9249. How do they dispose of their plait?—They take the plait to Shefford, six miles distant; there is a market there, and there is a plait-buyer who lives within a mile and a half of Ampthill, and who buys for Mr. Waller, the head merchant.

9250. Do you think that the plaiters at Ampthill, taking their plait to this person who lives within a mile and a half of the town, or to Shefford, six miles distant, would obtain the usual price for their plait?—Yes, I think so; because there is another plait-buyer also at Flitwick, that is within a mile and a half the other way; people have no difficulty in parting with their plait.

9251. Turn to 5885; it is there stated, with reference to the parish of Westoning, that 36 men have been out of work in severe weather, and that on the 17th of February there were 40?—A list of those names has been promised; if I saw the list of names I should be better able to tell.

9252. During that time you were at Westoning?—I was.

9253. Did you find that there was an unusual number of applications made?—No, I did not; they did not apply to me.

9254. From any inquiry that you made upon the spot, did you apprehend that there was great distress at that time in the parish of Westoning?—I do not, nor have I ever considered Westoning a distressed place.

9255. What are your reasons for considering Westoning not a distressed place?—Because the men themselves are chiefly plaiters; nearly every man brought up in Westoning is a plaiter; he plaits till he is big enough to go to harvest work, usually at 14 or 15 years of age, and then he is always able to plait when he is out of work; I know them when I see them, and that induced me to withhold relief from them, because I knew they were not telling me a true story when they said they had nothing to do, when I could see from their fingers that they had been plaiting.

9256. What do you mean by saying that you could tell by their fingers?—Their fingers and thumb are always white from plaiting.

9257. And did you observe that the fingers of the men showed that they were employed at plaiting?—I did.

9258. How much do you suppose that they would earn at plaiting?—Some almost as much as the women.

9259. What do you state that to be?—Five shillings a week.

9260. Turn to 5928; it is there stated, that if a man has a wife who is sick, he is not entitled to relief in the parish of Ampthill?—I do not know whether they are entitled to it, but they get it.

9261. Just describe to us fairly what would happen, if an able-bodied man, in the receipt of the usual wages, and with a family, was to come and say his wife was ill, and unable to follow the usual household occupations, in what way would the board of guardians deal with such a case?—The board of guardians would, first of all, wish for a medical report on the subject; and if the man was belonging to a medical club, a certificate would be sent by the medical officer to whose club she belonged; if not, they would then order the surgeon to attend the woman, and upon his report they would act upon the following board day.

9262. But in the interim, and before they could receive the report of the medical officer, would they direct you or any body to make inquiry into the condition of the family?—They would.

9263. If you found that in consequence of the wife being unable to follow the usual household business, and to look after the family, the man was obliged to hire somebody to do it, and that it was an expense to him, would the board of guardians assist him?—The board of guardians would authorize me to place a nurse in the house, if it were required.

9264. Can you state positively that that is the general practice?—That has been the practice ever since I have been in the union.

9265. Supposing his children to be ill, what would be done?—If the children were ill, if there was more than one ill, if it was a case of small-pox, or any particular disease, the board would assist him; if it were only one child ill, they would be very cautious in doing so.

9266. Supposing the man or his wife, or any of the family to be ill, are you not bound, by your instructions, to furnish such relief in or out of the workhouse, as the case, on the certificate of the medical officer, may appear to require?—I think not; if the man is as the head of the family, in the receipt of earnings, I do not think I am bound to make a pauper of that man, unless particular necessity requires it.

9267. Then you think you are at liberty to exercise your discretion, as to whether the man's earnings are sufficient to enable him to provide the requisite assistance?—I do think so.

9268. And in the case in which you thought his earnings were sufficient for that purpose, you would not give the man relief?—Certainly not.

6269. But where you did not think the man's earnings sufficient, even though he was in receipt of regular earnings, and there was a certificate of a medical officer stating that they required relief, should you feel yourself bound to give it?—I should.

9270. What is your practice?—That is my practice; I give it in all cases where I think the necessity exists for it, and where the man's earnings are insufficient to provide it.

9271. You reside in the parish of Ampthill, you must therefore be very conversant with the general state and condition of the people there; are you of opinion that two-thirds of the labourers of Ampthill, or any thing like that amount, have not constant work?—No, I am of a very different opinion; I know there are many who have not constant work, and for this reason, they never had constant work in their lives, and never will have, unless they reform very much; they are people who live the whole year round by jobbing work, and never have constant work.

9272. But that cannot apply to two-thirds, or to any thing like that number of the labourers of the place?—Certainly not.

9273. Should you say that it was a true description of the condition of the labourers of Ampthill, in number 5938, that two-thirds of them have not constant work?—Certainly not; far otherwise.

9274. When you say that there are a certain number of people in a place

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with so large a population as Ampthill, who are idle and irregular in their habits, do you mean that those are the description of people who do not obtain constant employment?—Those are the people I speak of.

9275. Are they very numerous?—I think Ampthill has a fair share of them, as compared with other places.

9276. Those persons would be exposed to inconvenience, and would be obliged to have recourse to this employment of plaiting, in order to support themselves if they were not in employment?—I do not think the men about Ampthill know much about plaiting; I think they depend upon jobs and occasional employment; Ampthill being a market town, there are more jobs of that kind, and they get a very good living, many of them.

9277. You have been frequently in the cottages of the people in the parishes of the union?—Very frequently.

9278. What do you find generally to be the condition of their bedding; is this a just description, should you say, generally of their cottages; turn to question 5960, where it is said, "We found mostly a bundle of straw put together to lie upon, the same as for a cow or a horse." Should you say that generally was a description of the bedding of the cottagers in that part of the world?—Certainly not; that there are cottages so situated I have not a doubt; in fact, I know it to be the case; but they belong to that class of people of whom I have now been speaking; see the cottage of the regular labourer of good character, and you will find his bedding and every thing else in a very different state from the description there given.

9279. Have you been in the habit of living in other parts of England?—I have; I have been in every county in England almost.

9280. Should you say that both the furniture and bedding, and the general appearance of the cottages in Bedford, are worse or better than in the other rural parts of England with which you are acquainted?—Certainly not worse than in the other rural parts of England; I think not so bad as in Sussex; I was down in Sussex three years ago, and I observed much more distress there than I have seen in Bedfordshire.

9281. That was before the introduction of the new law?—It was about the time it was being introduced.

9282. Before it could have produced any effect upon the condition of the labourers?—Yes.

9283. Does your experience lead you to believe that the people in Bedfordshire and the Union of Ampthill are less supplied with bedding and with the common furniture for their houses, than they were before the Poor Law was introduced?—Certainly not; the same people that had it during the old Poor Law have it now.

9284. Have what?—A comfortable home, and the reverse.

9285. Mr. *Liddell.*] The Committee infer from your answer to the questions, that those families whose furniture and bedding is found in the condition described, owe their destitution not to any want of employment for labour, but to their misconduct?—I should say such was generally the case in many instances, perhaps in most.

9286. Do you consider it so in all?—Not in all; there are very few cases of that sort without exception; but as a general rule, I should say that was so; that they are not men of good character.

9287. Or of industrious habits?—No.

9288. *Chairman.*] Or that there was a want of good management on the part of their wives?—Yes; very much depends upon the wife; if you see a good industrious wife, whatever the labourer is, you see the cottage clean and neat, and the children sent to a place of worship on the Sunday; and where it is not so it is otherwise.

9289. Turn to 6021; you find the case of a man of the name of William Giddens; he is described as a man who has a wife and six children, the eldest of the children being under 13 years of age, and this family had had but a few days work since last harvest?—I do not know the man at all. I have paid the Union of Ampthill for three years and the man has never made application to me, and therefore I do not know him.

9290. This man is stated to reside in the parish of Clophill?—Yes; but as this man has never made application to me, of course I never sought him out.

9291. Turn to 6124; there it is stated, in allusion to the circumstances

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of a man who had been convicted of poaching, "his wife died; she was confined; three days after her confinement an inflammation took place; she was found to be very ill; they applied to the overseer; the overseer gave them a note to come to Ampthill, a distance of four miles, to the relieving officer, to get a doctor for her; the relieving officer would not look at the note:" that is the case of a woman, being the wife of Mark Herbert, in the parish of Westoning; have you any explanation to offer upon that case?—The only explanation I can give is this: a note was put into my hands, and I did read the note; it was a mere scrap of paper, not a sealed note as might be supposed; saying, that Mark Herbert wanted a doctor for his wife.

9292. It is said you would not look at the note, is that true?—It is not true.

9293. Did you look at the note?—I did; it was signed by John Hine, the overseer.

9294. What did you do upon looking at the note?—I asked why the man himself did not come, I was told that he was at work; I then asked why the overseer did not give the order, he said he did not know any thing about it, and I said, "I cannot give you an order," meaning that if the overseer had hesitated to treat it as a case of urgent necessity, I ought to do so. The man met me on the Sunday morning himself when I was going to church, and I asked the man in the first instance, "Have you asked Mr. Chapman to go on your own account?" his answer was, "No;" I said, "That would have been the proper course for you to pursue, as you have neglected to put your wife in a medical club, and you are a man in the receipt of wages just returned from harvest;" but I went to Mr. Chapman, I did not like to break into the rule of withholding relief from men not in distress, and I went to Mr. Chapman and reasoned the case with him, and he agreed to attend him on his own account rather than break into the rule.

9295. It is said, on being spoken to by Mr. Chapman, you said, "If it is one of your idle days, it is not one of mine, I shall not go;" did you make such an observation?—No such thing; when this man stopped me as I was going to church with my wife, I said, "Why did you not come yesterday?" he said, "Because I was at work;" I said, "If it is one of your idle days, it is not one of mine;" and I left my wife in the gateway, and went at once to Mr. Chapman upon the subject. Mr. Chapman told me then, that he had been overnight to the house, so that the woman had not been neglected; the man wanted to shift the responsibility from his own shoulders to that of the parish, and I was not willing it should be done.

9296. Did you consider Mark Herbert to be in circumstances to enable him to provide medical assistance for his wife?—I did; the man was just come from harvest, and was in the receipt of 10*s.* a week, I think he said, but perhaps 9*s.*

9297. If it is said that the doctor was applied for on the Saturday and did not see her till the Sunday, is that so?—I am not sure, but I think Mr. Chapman told me himself, that he saw her on the Saturday night or sent his assistant, and I understood that the woman was bled the previous night; I think he told me so.

9298. The first application was made to you on Saturday?—Saturday afternoon; it was by some old man, I believe the father of the woman.

9299. It is said, in answer to question 6140, that the relieving officer refused to open the note; you positively deny that?—I do, for it was already open.

9300. And you read it at the time?—Yes.

9301. And made what observations you thought right to make, having read the note?—Yes; I do not remember whether I kept the note, or returned it; but I have looked for it since, and cannot find it, so that I think it is not impossible that I might have given the note back into the man's hand.

George Pearce, Esquire, called in; and Examined.

George Pearce, Esq.

9302. *Chairman.*] ARE you a magistrate of Bedfordshire?—I am not acting at present. I have not qualified since the Queen's Accession.

9303. Are you chairman of one of the boards of guardians?—Of the Woburn board.

9304. Do you happen to know any thing of the facts with regard to this case of Mark Herbert, which has been alluded to?—Hearing it spoken of as one of extraordinary hardship, I made it my business to inquire, my brother being the clergyman of the parish. I know Herbert personally, and the report I hear of him is, that he is a drunkard, and a notorious poacher; he is a widower, with two

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children, one of them only born in wedlock; the facts are known to the Committee with respect to the woman's confinement; my brother, the clergyman, attended her three days before she died; it has been mentioned that there was no food in the house, and that she was wholly destitute; my brother gave her money, and offered her any food or any comfort that his house could supply.

9305. Therefore there could be no chance of her suffering from want of food, and the necessaries of life?—There could not, and at the same time she communicated to him, that during last harvest she received an injury whilst gleaning, and that she was conscious that she should not do well in her confinement. This man has only one child dependent upon him; he was, at the time, in work, receiving 9*s.* a week from a farmer in the parish; he is a member of a benefit club at Silsoe; a nurse to attend the woman, I understand, was paid for by the Ampthill board, and finally, the medical officer of the union was in attendance.

9306. From what you know of the case, and the inquiries your brother made upon the subject, you do not believe that this woman was in want, either of the necessary comforts required for her circumstances, or in want of medical attendance?—She had medical attendance, and she had a nurse in constant attendance upon her, and the man was at the time in full work at 9*s.* a week, and had but one child dependent upon him.

9307. And your brother visited the woman repeatedly during her illness?—During the last three days of her illness.

9308. And offered her any thing in his house she might require?—Not only so, but he gave her money.

9309. Do you know Mr. Chapman?—I do.

9310. Is he one of the surgeons employed in the Ampthill Union?—He is the medical officer of the union.

9311. Is he a respectable man?—Highly so; a most humane man.

9312. Would you think that any statement he made might be relied on?—I believe him to be a man of the most unimpeachable veracity.

9313. I have received a letter from Mr. Chapman to this purport, and I shall be glad to know whether it corresponds with your information of the attendance upon Mark Herbert: he says, "Mark Herbert came to my house between eight and nine o'clock on Saturday evening, October 14, 1837, to request that I would see his wife, whom he described as being very ill after her confinement, which had taken place on the Thursday previous; he said he had applied to the relieving officer for a medical order, but had not obtained one. I immediately sent my assistant over to Westoning to visit the poor woman; he found her suffering under symptoms of severe inflammation, he bled her, and sent the requisite medicines by the man the same evening," that is on Saturday immediately after the application was made. "On Sunday morning I rode over to visit her myself, and in addition to other measures, recommended the application of leeches, a sufficient supply of which I sent immediately on my return home. I visited her again on Monday morning, and expressly rode over to see her on Tuesday, but all means proved unavailing, and she died on Wednesday morning; it will now be apparent to your honourable Committee:" the surgeon goes on to say, "that the poor woman was properly attended to on the Saturday evening immediately her husband made the application, that no means were neglected for her relief from that time to the termination of the case, of which I had the most unfavourable opinion from the first;" that is Mr. Chapman's statement to me. Mr. Chapman adds with respect to the statement made in answer to question 6144, which is this, the witness is asked, "Did the man then go to the doctor?" and the witness answered, "He did, and stated his case; and the doctor came and examined the case, and said, Go to Ampthill and I will meet you at Ampthill directly, and tell the relieving officer I want him." Mr. Chapman, in allusion to that, says, "I have only to add, that the statement in paragraph 6144 is altogether fictitious:" that being Mr. Chapman's letter, describing the manner in which he attended to the application; in that case would it appear from that that there was any neglect of medical assistance?—It would not; I spoke to the overseer and asked why he did not send the order for the medical officer to attend, instead of communicating with the relieving officer; he said he did not know what his duty was.

9314. Mr. *Liddell.*] It appears the woman was confined on the Thursday; do you know who attended her in her confinement?—A nurse was in attendance; I suppose as midwife.

9315. Was she employed on Herbert's own account, or by the union?—A nurse was

was paid for by the board, but I cannot say whether she was a midwife; I am not resident there. *George Pearce, Esq.*

9316. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is there any entry of a payment for a nurse in the parish accounts?—I am not acquainted with the parish accounts. 9 May 1838.

9317. *Chairman.*] You happened to live near this man, and therefore made inquiries into the case?—I live in the adjoining parish; those circumstances were communicated to me.

Mr. *John Marshall*, further Examined.

9318. Mr. *Liddell.*] WHEN an application was made to you by means of that note, for medical assistance, for the wife of Mark Herbert, the only reason that you did not give immediate attention to it, appears to have been, that you considered Mark Herbert to be in possession of sufficient means to employ a medical man himself, and not to resort to the parish; was that the case?—It was; in all those cases application must be made by the head of the family; I cannot take it from a second party; that man could not explain to me the circumstances of Mark Herbert, and if he wanted relief for his wife, it was his duty to have come to me, and stated the case, and convinced me that it was not in his power to provide medical assistance: had he done so, I should have given it to him; but I could not do so upon the hearsay evidence of another man. Mr. *John Marshall.*

9319. Does he reside at Westoning?—Yes.

9320. And you reside at Ampthill?—Yes.

9321. What distance is Westoning from Ampthill?—Four miles.

9322. If Mark Herbert had made application to the overseer or churchwarden of Westoning, he might have received the relief for which he applied, upon his recommendation?—If the overseer had seen that the case was a case of necessity, or the churchwarden, he might have given an order for the doctor to attend, without sending the party to me; when they hesitated to pronounce it a case of urgent necessity, of course I must do so when I could not see the man.

9323. Was that note written by the head of the family?—It was signed by the overseer, merely saying, "Mark Herbert wants a doctor for his wife," not stating it to be a case of urgent necessity.

9324. *Chairman.*] Take this book in your hand; this is an abstract of the application and report-book; do not you find an entry for a nurse for Mark Herbert's wife?—Yes; here is an entry, "a nurse ordered for illness of wife, since dead;" that was given by myself, without the consent of the board, and confirmed by the board, and afterwards allowed; the date of that is the 5th week of the quarter, ending the 23d of December 1837.

9325. Lord *Howick.*] Is that the date of its being allowed by the guardians?—It is; it would have been given the week before; I put the nurse in on the Monday, but paid her from the Thursday preceding.

9326. *Chairman.*] Have you any observation to make upon the cases of Cox, Carter and Odell?—The principal thing that struck me about the earnings there, is, that the annual earnings of Carter's wife seem to be nothing, except that she earns 10*s.* by going out gleaning, and all the remainder of the year she appears to be idle.

9327. It is stated that she is not a plaiter?—But she is doing something, lace-making, if she is not a plaiter; there is nobody idle there; they are sure to be plaiters or lace-makers; but there are no earnings for the woman beyond 10*s.* for gleaning, which is very much under the mark, in my opinion, for a woman's gleanings, or she must be up late in the morning; and the earnings of Odell's family are stationary, though they are three years older: and the amount of earnings of Cox's family has dwindled down from 16*l.* 2*s.* to 10*l.* 8*s.*, while his children have increased three years in age, and the consequent earnings, I should say, nearly doubled.

9328. Turn to 6795; there you will find the case of a woman of the name of Ruth Cole, who is described in this way; she is said to be a poor woman, near the place where the writer of the letter was at the time, "confined some time ago; inflammation ensued; the officers of the union were applied to, but there was such a number of individuals to be seen before she could have any medical relief, that at last a gentleman sent for a doctor at his own expense, but too late; the poor woman died a victim to the ill-working system." Have you any observation to make upon the statement with regard to Ruth Cole?—The man Cole applied to me with a note from the overseer, as in the case of Mark Herbert; the overseer

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having neglected to give the order himself, I thought that he had no business to write to me on the subject; that if there was a case of necessity, that the woman should have a doctor, he ought to have ordered one; but I was anxious about the woman, and knowing that the man was in constant work at 10*s.* a week (I had the fact from his own mouth), I said, "Have you been to Mr. Chapman to ask him to come?" he said, "No, he will not come without the money;" said I, "How do you know; do you owe him any thing?" "No, I do not." Then, I said, "He will come; and, at all events, go and ask him, and let me know whether he does or not:" he went away from my house, as I supposed, to go and ask Mr. Chapman; he did not return to tell me that he was unsuccessful, but went immediately, from all that I could learn, to Mr. Linsdell, and told him that he could not get an order. Mr. Linsdell, seeing that it was a case of necessity, sent for Mr. Chapman at his own expense.

9329. In that case you referred or you sent the man to inquire of the doctor if he could attend?—I told the man to ask Mr. Chapman, and let me know what Mr. Chapman said, and the man did not return; and I concluded that he had made a bargain with Mr. Chapman to go and attend his wife.

9330. It was stated that the man's wages were 8*s.* or 9*s.* a week?—The man told me that they were 10*s.*; and in the application-book, where he applied on the following week for money to bury his wife, it would appear that his earnings were 10*s.* a week.

9331. It appears in this case that the overseer told Cole that he could not give him an order?—Yes, that is the statement.

9332. A circular letter is sent to every parish in Ampthill, informing the overseers of their duties in these particulars?—Yes, which I have already put in.

9333. Is that circular sent every year?—It is.

9334. So that the new overseers are put in possession of it?—They are; I deliver it myself.

9335. I observe this entry in the application-book, on the ninth week of the quarter ending the 23d of December 1837: "John Cole applies for the funeral expenses of his wife, which is granted;" and in that application-book, his earnings, upon his own application, and he being present, and having made the statement to the board, are stated to be 10*s.* a week?—That would be read in his presence, and if there was any mistake he would have corrected it. That is put down by me, in the first instance, as being the amount of the earnings, and I or the clerk read it in his presence. If there had been any mistake upon that point it would have been contradicted.

9336. Originally taken from his own statement?—Yes; and before closing this circumstance of Cole, I would just refer to the instructional letter which has been sent by the Poor Law Commissioners; it says, in the fourth paragraph of it (the date of the letter is the 6th of May 1836): "It being the object of the Poor Law Amendment Act to restore the labourers to a state of independence, every method should be tried to enable them to maintain and preserve that position when once they have attained to it, and to strengthen the barrier by which they have separated themselves from pauperism." With an instruction of that kind before me, I cannot break down that barrier on every application made to me, without being quite sure that the person cannot procure the relief that he seeks from the parish; in this case I directed the man to go to Mr. Chapman, and I supposed, and I still suppose, him to have been able to pay for the medical attendance.

9337. Though that may be true as a general rule, do not you think that in respect to people in this class of life, sickness to the head of the family, or to the wife, or to any member of the family, exposing the family to great inconvenience and expense, may be taken as exceptions to the rule?—Certainly; if the sickness is to the head of the family, that ends the matter at once, we relieve them.

9338. But where the sickness, as is frequently the case, does not occur in the instance of the head of the family, but of the wife or the children, and exposes the head of the family to great inconvenience and expense, would not that give the family a claim to assistance?—If it had lasted long; but this had come on within a day or two.

9339. I find this paragraph in the Second Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, with reference to the treatment of cases in sickness: "When we come to consider, that though a person in good health may be perfectly in circumstances to maintain his family, yet that sickness may necessarily reduce him to a state requiring relief;"

relief;" the expression is this, "Sickness may in itself frequently be a cause of destitution, and justify an order for relief; it will often be found necessary to extend it to those who when in health are able to maintain themselves and their families, but in case of sudden and unforeseen necessity, such relief may at once be ordered by justices of the peace, churchwardens or overseers, as well as guardians or relieving officers;" do you think that explanation of the law under which relief may be given in case of sickness, is well understood by the parish officers in your district?—It is impossible for me t say whether they understand it, but if they do not they ought to understand it; they go into office, and they ought to understand what the office is, and not make it a nominal thing.

9340. You think the circular addressed to them by the Ampthill Union is calculated to give them an acquaintance with the law?—Yes, I do.

9341. Mr. *Liddell.*] In the second instance the head of the family, in the case of Ruth Cole, did call upon you with a request for assistance?—Yes.

9342. But you refused that because he had not brought with him a sufficient certificate, of his own overseer?—No, I never said that.

9343. Why did you refuse?—Because I considered that he was able to provide for himself that assistance which he was asking from the parish; and I tested it by sending him to the doctor, to ask him to go on his own account; the man never went; it subsequently appears, that instead of going to the doctor he went to Mr. Linsdell, a gentleman in his own parish, and told him that he could not get a doctor, and Mr. Linsdell sent for the doctor at his own expense.

9344. Perhaps he might have felt that he was not capable of applying for medical assistance at his own cost?—He could not convince me of that very easily, he being a man in work; and this sickness had not been of long duration, it had very recently occurred; he would find it difficult to persuade me that it was so.

9345. *Chairman.*] Had he a numerous family?—One child, and another born that morning.

9346. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Have you ever known orders for medical relief granted by other persons than relieving officers?—In a great many instances.

9347. By justices of the peace?—I do not remember any instance of that.

9348. By overseers?—Yes, and churchwardens.

9349. In this particular parish, in which Ruth Cole resides, do you remember an order being granted by the overseer?—I cannot call to my recollection any circumstance of the kind; the parish is very small, and very few cases occur.

9350. Mr. *Langdale.*] You say that overseers ought to know their duty, from those instructions, which have been issued by the board of guardians; but do not you find that, practically, they do not know their duty?—I do not find, practically, that the whole do not.

9351. But there are instances in which overseers do not know the duty they have to perform?—I have found instances, but there are four parish officers in each parish, two churchwardens and two overseers; the chances are that they are not all ignorant men.

9352. Persons are put into the situation of overseers who are not properly instructed how to perform the duties?—There are persons who can neither read nor write, who are appointed overseers.

9353. *Chairman.*] Turn to 6835; the case of "Susan Bunker, a widow, 40 years of age; she had two boys, one was aged 15, the other 11; this woman makes lace; her eyes are very bad, and at lace-making when the eyes are bad, they cannot earn much; the eldest of those boys was sick, and evidently going into a decline; she applied to the board for a doctor for him; she was not allowed one." And in the next question it is said, "I find that she applied in July, and told Marshall that her son was dying, and Marshall would not let her go upstairs;" have you any observations to make upon that case?—The observation I have to make upon that is, that the woman applied for out-door relief for her son and not for medical aid, as stated; and, as she came late, she did not apply to me, but at the board, to be let in; and, contrary to the usual rule of the board, they did let her come in, and heard her story, and which it appears was never booked; she applied for out-door relief for her son, and she was told to bring that son into the workhouse, for the benefit of the workhouse infirmary; they considered that the boy would be taken much better care of there than she could take care of him.

9354. She did not make an application to you?—She did not; she was one of

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those that were late, and after the board was over she got in; she made a personal application to me then.

9355. Contrary to the usual system of the board, they saw her, though she had not made a previous application to you?—They did.

9356. Probably they were induced to do so by her expressing great anxiety to tell her story?—She said her boy was sick.

9357. Under those circumstances they deviated from the usual rule of not hearing a pauper's application, unless previous application had been made to you, and they did hear her application?—Yes.

9358. And, her son being ill, they proposed to her that her son should come into the infirmary of the workhouse?—Yes.

9359. Under the impression, that, the infirmary being under the charge of a competent surgeon, the boy would be better taken care of there than he could be at home?—That is the case.

9360. In 6847 the question is asked, "Are you prepared to state that the relieving officer takes it upon himself to say whether the parties shall be permitted to go before the board or not?" The answer is, "I am; when I make use of that expression, I do it guardedly; I will give the names of individuals who have come distances to the workhouse and have never been before the board, and the board have never known that they came;" and then he goes on to say that he is prepared to give the names, and that they have been prevented from making an application to the board by the interference of the relieving officer; is that description of your conduct true?—That, if I mistake not, is given in reference to the case of Sarah Billington; in answer to that question 6847, I am quite prepared to say that that is not my conduct, far otherwise.

9361. Supposing a person has come from a distance to the workhouse and cannot see the board, would he not, if he waited till the board was over, have an opportunity of seeing you?—They would have an opportunity of seeing me after the board was over.

9362. If they did see you after the board was over, should you not feel it your duty to enter the application in your book?—Yes; and tell them to come next board-day.

9363. And on the next board-day they would be heard?—If they came they would be heard.

9364. Is it true that if parties had come to the workhouse and wished to see the board, and make an application to the board, that the board never would have known that they came?—It is not true.

9365. Can you take upon yourself to say that no parties have come to you, to make application to you, when you have refused to insert the names in the application-book, and to give the board an opportunity of deciding upon the case?—Never, unless in cases which had been previously decided upon by the board; and if there was no new feature in the case, I have the instructions of the board not to admit them again; it was taking up the time of the board to no purpose.

9366. In those cases did you remind them of the previous decision of the board?—I did.

9367. Mr. *Liddell.*] Did Susan Bunker ever get any relief from the board?—She did not, since I paid that parish.

9368. Have you any doubt that Susan Bunker, being a widow, 40 years of age, two boys, one aged 15 and the other 11, one of her sons being sick, and going into a decline, and herself having bad eyes, and only employed in making lace, was in a state of considerable want?—I have very great doubt; in the first place, she kept her father's house, for which, of course, she got paid, and lived there rent-free; in the next place, there is no proof of her eyes having been bad; nor do I see, nor am I at all aware, that there is any thing the matter with her eyes, any more than any other person 40 years of age; and I believe it is not the case.

9369. But you gave her the choice of sending her son into the infirmary?—The board of guardians did.

9370. Do not you think it natural, when a mother sees her son dying before her eyes, in a decline, that she should be sorry to part with him to go into the infirmary, and would rather have him at home?—It is a natural thing.

9371. And to entrust him to the care of strangers, and to part with him entirely, would be unnatural?—She must be aware that that boy was not going into

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into the hands of strangers exactly; she could see him as often as she thought proper; she lives but a mile and a half from Ampthill, at Steppingley.

9372. You think it a misapplication, supposing the circumstances to be true, that she was in a state of distress, of the funds of the board, to have extended out-door relief to a case of that sort?—Certainly not, taking her case to be as she stated it.

9373. Was her case ever entered into by the board of guardians?—It was; but, as I have before observed, it was entered into in an irregular way; it was one of those cases that was admitted by the board after the business of the day was over.

9374. And relief was refused her, upon that condition, that she would send the boy into the workhouse?—She was offered that relief; and that was the only relief that was offered her.

9375. *Chairman.*] Were you present at the board when that relief was offered?—Yes.

9376. Was it offered with the intention of doing that which was best for the boy, under the circumstances, or as a test of whether she required relief or not?—I think it was offered her from motives of humanity to the boy, thinking that the boy would be done better by, if placed under the constant care of the surgeon and nurse, than with her.

9377. As the best mode of treating the illness of the child?—Yes. I am not prepared to enter into the defence of the 25 guardians that might be sitting at the board at this time; in all probability the guardian of the parish might have known her case, and stated his opinion of it to the board.

9378. It is said, in 6947, that when Susan Bunker asked about a coffin, and the expenses of the funeral, her son having died, your answer was, "We must look to the living, and never mind the dead." This the mother thought was a very hard sentence, and said to him, "You never looked after him when he was alive." Have you any recollection of that?—I have a perfect recollection of the circumstance.

9379. Will you state the circumstance, as you remember it?—The boy died on the Tuesday; a coffin was provided for the boy and he was buried; on the following Monday, when I went over to Steppingley, the woman applied to me for a remuneration for the two women who had laid the boy out; I told her that I was unable to grant that, that was a thing that must be done by the overseer. I had told her this; she was very importunate about getting reimbursed for this money to the two women, and at the same time I had another application. There is no place to take applications there except in the street, and I had five or six people round me at the time; I had given her an answer, and was speaking to another, and she interrupted me; I said, "My good woman, let me pay some attention to the living; I cannot do your boy any good now;" and she said, "No, and you never did him any good when he was alive;" and I made no answer to that. This is a minute of the board of guardians of the 21st of April 1836. "That no bill from any parish in this union presented by relieving officers to this board, can be allowed, without such bill having first been examined and allowed by the overseers of such parish." The consequence would have been, that had I paid that woman for the attendance of the women on her son I could not have got reimbursed, therefore it had to be paid by the overseer; the overseer had to make out a bill, signed by him, which would have been laid by me before the next board, and the money allowed if thought necessary; instead of that no bill came to me.

9380. Were the funeral expenses paid?—In all other respects, except for those women laying the body out.

9381. Are the funeral expenses paid by any general contract in the Union of Ampthill?—We contract for coffins.

9382. Do you contract for the whole of the funeral expenses?—No, only for the coffins.

9383. Mr. *Walker.*] What would have been the charge of the women for laying out that corpse?—Four shillings we usually pay on those occasions.

9384. *Chairman.*] When the woman said that you never looked after her son when he was alive, did you think that reproach just, when the board of guardians had offered to take her son into the infirmary, under the notion that he would be better attended to there?—I thought it extremely unjust, but I do not enter into conversation with those people generally; it would only have irritated her, without producing any effect.

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9385. Mr. *Estcourt.*] What is the course taken in the Union of Ampthill with regard to funeral expenses; the coffin is contracted for; what sum besides that is allowed?—Four shillings for two women to lay out the body, and usually 4 *s.* for the bearers, but depending upon the distance that the bearers have to carry the body, and the clerk's fees 2 *s.* 6 *d.*; we do not pay any thing to the minister.

9386. Does that include the tolling of the bell and the digging of the grave?—Yes.

9387. How came this woman not to receive the 4 *s.*?—That was the business of the overseer.

9388. But she does not say that you referred her to the overseer?—I did refer her to the overseer; I told her I had nothing to do with it.

9389. That we are to have as your answer; that you referred her to the overseer?—Yes.

9390. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you find misapprehensions in the minds of the paupers as to the quarter to which they should apply for relief?—No, I do not; our union has been three years in existence, and the regulations of it are very well known.

9391. You do find some misapprehension in the overseers, regarding the nature and extent of their duty?—Yes; they have so little to do, that what they do is ill done.

9392. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Can you say that this woman was ever paid her 4 *s.* for the two women laying out the body?—She never was, unless the overseer paid it out of his pocket; it never came before me.

9393. If she had applied to the overseer, she would have got that 4 *s.*?—The overseer would have inquired as to the necessity of giving it, and it might have turned out that when the overseer came to inquire, there were no such persons hired.

9394. *Chairman.*] Turn to 6855. It is stated there that you omitted some names from your application-book, and that parties "come a great distance, and they do not go up; and he tells them they have no need to go up, and they may go home"?—That is relating particularly to a woman of the name of Flint.

9395. Speak to your general practice; is that true as a description of your practice?—Certainly not.

9396. Do you omit names from your application-book?—Never.

9397. Do you exercise a discretion as to who should see the board?—Certainly not.

9398. Do you take every application from every pauper, and enter it into your book, and is that book laid before the board?—That is the course adopted.

9399. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Except in case of second applications?—Yes.

9400. *Chairman.*] Where there has been no change of circumstances?—Yes.

9401. Turn to 6868. There there is a reference to the case of a person who is stated to have been misled by being told that she could come before the board without making previous application to the relieving officer. "Can you state the name of any guardian who misled the people by telling them that they could come before the board without having made previous application to the relieving officer?" The person described to have been so misled by a guardian, is Sarah Billington, living in the parish of Cranfield, but belonging to the parish of Lidlington; she is stated to have bad eyes, and to be nearly blind, and that she had come from Cranfield on the 5th of January of this year; and the witness is asked whether she had made a previous application to the relieving officer, and he says, "I am not aware; she was at that time receiving 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a week; she is a widow of 66 years of age, with bad eyes, and not able to make much lace; if she could do it, she would not make much by it; she used to have 2 *s.* a week, but it is now reduced to 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, and she could not live with this 1 *s.* 6 *d.*; she is very badly off; she applied to the guardian of the parish of Lidlington, which is Mr. Thomas, and he told her he could not do any thing for her, but requested her to come to the board on Thursday; accordingly she went from Cranfield to Ampthill, six miles, and when she got there she was refused to go up-stairs." Do you know any thing about her?—This woman had made a previous application, and her case was decided on.

9402. When?—Five or six weeks previously. There is a permanent list made out for the chairman; and where paupers come before them, and the amount has not been raised, it has been usual for the chairman to leave it in that way, and therefore it is most likely that it will not show in that whether she did apply or not; however, she did appear five or six weeks before then, and her case was decided

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decided upon; and I was desired to inquire of Mr. Bull whether any thing was the matter with her eyes; and he said, "No, nothing was the matter with her eyes, more than with anybody else of her age; she could help herself by wearing spectacles." I should say it is only since that that the board has written, when they applied, "Refused increase."

9403. Turn to the application-book, and see if you find an entry of Sarah Billington having appeared before the board of guardians, and state when?—It has not been reported here; that would be by the clerk, because this list is made out at the commencement of the quarter, and the clerk would have made the observation if the chairman had made any.

9404. Do you find in that which purports to be the application and report-book, in the quarter ending the 23d of December 1836, an entry of Sarah Billington?—Yes.

9405. Is that the occasion on which she appeared before the board?—No.

9406. Where is there any trace of her having appeared before the board?—I do not think there is one.

9407. Why is there not?—That would rest with the chairman.

9408. She made an application to you originally?—She did.

9409. Was that entered in your application-book?—Being a permanent pauper, that is not entered in the application-book; being for a rise there is already a description of it, and if the board say there is to be an increase, the chairman writes that there is to be an increase, putting his initials.

9410. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Have you the application made by her in 1836?—In 1837; it may be in 1836.

9411. Then, at the commencement of a particular quarter she would be included in the permanent list?—Yes.

9412. And if she applies from time to time for any increase of allowance, the board would decide that they saw no reason for that, or, if the board saw a reason, there would be an entry of that increase?—Yes; but since this case has occurred the chairman has taken the precaution of writing down whether they are refused, and when they are refused, and the reason.

9413. Then if you found her continued in the permanent list, and no memorandum of increase, it follows that she is allowed the same sum?—Yes.

9414. *Chairman.*] Can you speak from memory to the time when this person appeared before the board of guardians?—Yes, it was some few weeks, I should think five or seven weeks, previous to her coming again, which she did when the board was rising, and spoke to me; I told her her case had been already decided on, and another thing was that the business was over.

9415. She had appeared before the board, and had stated her view of her own case to the board, and they had decided that she should receive a certain amount of relief?—They had decided that she should not receive any increase to the 1 *s.* 6 *d.* she had already received.

9416. But the 1 *s.* 6 *d.* should be continued?—Yes.

9417. Subsequent to that she wished to see the board again, with a view to an increase?—Yes.

9418. You told her that she had already seen the board, and that there were no new circumstances in her case, and that she could not see the board?—Yes, and another thing was, that the business of the board was over.

9419. Mr. *Estcourt.*] How often is the permanent list revised?—Every quarter.

9420. Do the parties themselves appear before the board whenever the permanent list is revised?—No.

9421. How long was it between the time of this application to you of Sarah Billington, and the last time that she appeared before the board?—Six or seven weeks.

9422. She had never appeared before the board since the date of her original application?—I think not; she had been a permanent pauper before that; many years a pauper.

9423. How came she to appear before the board six or seven weeks before?—She wanted an increase, which the board refused.

9424. Upon that occasion she did appear before the board?—Yes, and the board refused her application.

9425. What rule have you with regard to second applications; is it in your own discretion whether they shall appear before the board or not?—No; if the

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case has recently been before the board, and the board have decided it, and there are no new features in the case, I have the instructions of the board not to admit them; but if any time has elapsed since they made the application, or there are any new features in the case, the board will hear them again.

9426. Should you think yourself justified in refusing an application to appear before the board, if the time extended beyond the quarter, and there were no new features arising in the case?—If a quarter of a year had elapsed, I should not object to letting them go before the board again.

9427. Mr. *Langdale.*] If I understand, practically you are the judge whether there is a new feature or not in the case; supposing an application to be made, you consider yourself the judge whether there is any new feature in the case or not?—Yes; but I judge from asking the people themselves.

9428. But the board of guardians are not the judges in the case?—No.

9429. Mr. *Estcourt.*] A new feature simply means, a new fact in their circumstances?—Yes; or if the people have got older, or got more infirm, a thing might occur of that kind, I should have no objection; but the board had a great deal of time taken up in people coming as they did to the old overseers, thinking, that if they did not succeed at one time, they might be more likely at another, and the board therefore came to the determination of not hearing a case over again.

9430. *Chairman.*] Would there be the same danger of the amount or the description of relief being varied capriciously by the board, that there might have been formerly, under the imperfect administration of the overseer?—Certainly not.

9431. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Supposing the board allowed persons to make second applications without any restraint, is it not reasonable to suppose that in a short time that would cure itself; that finding they had always a similar answer, they would not come a second time to make an application, without a new feature in the case?—It would depend upon the board; there might be a different board, and different members in it at different times; sometimes a board is constituted of three or four members, and perhaps the whole of the members adverse to the new law.

9432. Do you find that there is not a similarity of decision in the same board at different periods, when the different members attend?—I have found it so occasionally.

9433. Mr. *Walker.*] Do you generally find the guardians of the respective parishes acting in favour of their own poor?—I have in many instances found that.

9434. Is that a general feature?—Yes; and the consequence is, the presence of other guardians restrains that, and outvotes it.

9435. *Chairman.*] In question 6889 it is stated, that when parties see you in their respective parishes, when you are going your rounds, and they make an application to you, in some instances you refuse to receive the application?—That is not true.

9436. You are confident that it is not your practice to refuse to receive an application from a party who made that application to you when they find you in their parish?—I am quite confident it is not; I attend the parish as much for that purpose, as for paying the poor.

9437. An instance is mentioned of the case of James Wilson, who applied to you in his own parish, being the parish of Steppingley, when you went round, asking you if he might have a doctor, for his wife was very ill, and she had been ill for some time; "he applied for her to have a doctor, but she could not have one, being told by Marshall that he would not give her one"?—That is, I did not consider it a case of urgent necessity, and I would not give her an order; I did not consider it a case that I ought to interfere with, but I told the man that he might come to the board of guardians if he thought proper.

9438. It is not true, then, that you refused to take the man's application?—Certainly not; his application upon that occasion was received.

9439. And put down in your book?—Yes.

9440. Did he appear, in consequence, before the board of guardians?—He did not.

9441. He did not think it worth while to appear before the board, his name having been taken down in the application-book?—I dare say his reason was, that he knew that his circumstances were such that the board of guardians would not give him an order, because the man's wages it is stated are 8*s.* or 9*s.* a week.

week. I have applied to his master, and I find that his wages were 13 *s.* instead of 9 *s.*; he had 10 *s.* a week regularly during the whole winter, for draining; he drew the 10 *s.* weekly on account, and on drawing out the amount due at the end of six weeks, they had 5 *l.* to take between him and three others, which brought his wages up to 13 *s.* a week, and some odd pence. Mr. *John Marshall.* 9 May 1838.

9442. Under those circumstances you did not refuse to take the man's application; you entered it in your own paper, and afterwards in the application-book?—No, not in the application-book.

9443. Why?—Because the man did not appear; I never put any thing there till the man personally appears; I make an entry in my own private book.

9444. Do you mean that you do not enter it in the application book unless the man applies to the board?—Certainly.

9445. Then do you make an entry in your application-book in the room when the man is there?—Yes.

9446. And if you took it down on paper, and if the man had come before the board, his name would have been in the application-book, and would have been entered there?—Yes; I quite expected that the man would appear, and that caused me to inquire into the state of his wages; and as soon as I heard that he was working for Mr. Bennett, of Bickerings Park, I was quite sure that he was not receiving as little as 9 *s.* a week.

9447. In 6948 there is a case stated of Catherine Flint; she is stated to be a widow living at Luton, 14 miles from Ampthill; she came over from Luton for the purpose of seeing the guardians; she was very badly off, and she was told (in 6956) by Marshall, the relieving officer, that she could not go up-stairs, that is, she must not see the board of guardians?—In answer I must say, that the woman had not come over from Luton on purpose to see the board of guardians; she came to receive a sum of money from the feoffee, and I believe she received 2 *l.* 10 *s.*; on that occasion she did apply to me about two o'clock.

9448. Was the board then sitting?—It was, but had gone through the relief cases, and then was sitting on other matters; and I could not tell her that she could not go up-stairs, for she was up-stairs at the time. I said that she must make the application to the relieving officer of the Luton Union if she needed assistance.

9449. Was she a person in such distress so as to need immediate relief at the moment?—No; and, being out of the union, I could not do it; but she is not in distress; she is a housekeeper at Luton; she takes in lodgers; those bonnet sewers who work for Mr. Waller and Mr. Wise, and who most likely pay the whole of her rent; her son is a master tailor at Hitchin, keeps a journeyman, and has his own brother apprenticed to him. I should say that he is able, very materially, to assist his mother; the woman herself takes in needle-work, which I believe is very abundant in the parish of Luton; and her eldest daughter Catherine, 19 years of age, earns 6 *s.* a week regularly; and Ann, aged 17, earns the same; her youngest daughter earns 3 *s.* a week; and she has a boy, 10 or 11 years of age, who appears to do nothing.

9450. Mr. *Liddell.*] Did you not say that she came to receive a sum of money from the feoffee?—Yes; that is a charity; I refused her because she did not reside in the union. I could not tell any thing of an alteration in her circumstances, as the relieving officer of the Luton Union could.

9451. Mr. *Walker.*] Does not the mere fact of her receiving 2 *l.* 10 *s.* from the charity imply that she was not in distress. Is it an annuity?—I think it is more an annuity than any thing else; she being a woman who had been respectable in the parish, they gave it her.

9452. *Chairman.*] Will you turn to 7006; that refers to the case of Enoch Keep, in which you are said, when he made an application to you for relief, to have replied to him, with a sneer, that "he might sell his house and eat it?"—That is merely said in that respectable journal the "Champion"; it has not been stated as a matter of fact that I said so to the man.

9453. It is stated by the witness, after reading that statement, that he had good reason to believe the person who wrote it; that he went over to the place, saw the daughter-in-law, and made several inquiries, and found it was a correct statement, as near as it was possible for any body to give it?—The statement is altogether incorrect; the man applied to the board of guardians, and had his case heard, and he was refused relief on account of having this house; the man applied a second time, and I said, "You heard the decision of the board; they will not

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relieve you while you have this house;" and he said, "What am I to do when I do sell it?" and I said, "Eat and drink it." I said it very pleasantly, and with no sneer; but he said, "When all that is gone what am I to do;" I said, "You then come in a different shape; but at present the board consider, when you can part with your house, that you are not destitute."

9454. What have you to say as to his means of providing himself with the necessaries of life?—I do not know any thing of the man beyond that; I never saw the man before, and do not know any thing of the circumstance; I had but recently taken up that part of the union, to pay it; I know nothing of the man, nor did I know the house that they were alluding to.

9455. The case was heard and determined upon by the board of guardians?—Yes; and as to a harsh word I never used it in my life; I spoke it as pleasantly as possible.

9456. Did the man receive it as an offence at the time?—I did not think so at all; the only time when I have spoken harshly is when they are endeavouring to deceive me in giving evasive answers.

9457. Mr. *Liddell.*] Would you not say, in the case of an old man, that it is a severe alternative to put him to, to sell his furniture before relief is given him?—That would depend in some measure upon what sort of furniture he had; if it was necessary furniture, I should say that it would be hard; but if the man had any thing beyond that; he had a clock in his house at that time, a good clock, which was not necessary.

9458. But the question was not as to selling his furniture, but the house which contained his furniture; if it is a hard alternative to oblige a man to sell his furniture, it is a still harder alternative to oblige him to sell his house?—I am not supposed to be a judge upon those cases.

9459. *Chairman.*] Will you turn to 7087; Mr. Turner is asked, whether the people are required to sell their furniture before they receive relief, and he says, "I am not aware that there has been an order given that they shall sell their furniture, but I know that expressions have been used that no persons ought to have relief while they had furniture or even bedsteads:" and then he is asked, who used those expressions, and he said those expressions had been used by you?—I deny that I ever used such an expression in my life.

9460. Do you entertain that opinion?—I do not, far otherwise.

9461. Do you entertain it as your opinion, or do you consider it to be consonant with the practice of the board of guardians at Ampthill, that the poor should be compelled to sell their furniture, even their bedsteads, prior to receiving relief?—I should certainly not, unless it was a useless thing, or an ornament, such as a watch; that he ought to sell; but as to any necessary article of furniture, I should be the last to imagine such a thing.

9462. This applies to bedsteads?—Of course, that is a necessary article of furniture.

9463. Mr. *Liddell.*] Why do you consider a watch merely an ornament?—I think a poor man has no great occasion for it; I should not like to get into much distress, and have a watch in my pocket.

9464. *Chairman.*] Turn to 7092; the case of Elizabeth Forsay, a widow, aged 58; she had 1*s.* a week; about a year and a half back this was taken away, and ever since she has not had any relief; she lives by making lace, but cannot earn 18*d.* a week; she sold her clock, her table, her chairs and all her furniture, and lives in lodgings; and she has been obliged, it is said afterwards, to sell her furniture in order to subsist, the relief having been withdrawn; and her eyes are said to be very bad, and that however hard she worked she could not make 18*d.* a week by making lace, and that is what she is living upon; she is now living in a room; do you know any thing of that case?—She was struck off before I had any thing to do with paying that part of the union to which she belongs; she belongs to the parish of Lidlington, and has only lately resided in the parish of Ampthill; she lives in a feoffee-room, free of expense, and therefore I know nothing of the woman; I do not even know her, but from the application she has made to the board since that.

9465. In answer to question 7099, the witness says that he supposes that she is considered to be an able-bodied person, being only 58 years old, and that for that reason they have taken her relief away; is it the practice to refuse relief to parties under 60 years of age out of the house?—If they consider that she is able-bodied;

able-bodied; she ought to have a medical certificate, to show that she has some infirmity. Mr. *John Marshall.*

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9466. Is there any rule by which persons under 60 are prohibited receiving out-door relief?—They do not make a difference between 60 and 16 on those occasions; if they have any infirmity they relieve them; if they are able-bodied they do not relieve them.

9467. The question that the board determines is, whether the parties are in a condition to work, and they are not governed by any general rule of their ages?—Exactly.

9468. Have you instances of parties under 60 years of age who receive relief?—Yes; I have a list of 122 who received relief, at the date of Turner's letter, all under 60 years of age.

[*The Witness delivered in the same:*—Vide *Appendix* B.]

9469. Mr. *Liddell.*] It is stated in question 7092, that Elizabeth Forsay is a widow, and "has been a widow four years; she had 1*s.* a week; about a year and a half back this was taken away, and ever since she has not had any; she lives by making lace, but cannot earn 1*s.* 6*d.* a week; up to last Michaelmas she kept her house on, but she sold her clock, her table, her chairs and all her furniture;" is that the case?—I am not aware that it is; I do not know the woman; she has not received that relief since June 1836, until lately; she has made another application to the board of guardians, and the board consider her rather poorly now, and they have allowed her some trifle.

9470. But in cases of sales of furniture, must not all such forced sales of furniture be probably sold at a disadvantage, and not fetch their real value?—If there have been forced sales I have not heard of any whatever, except under distress of rent; I have never heard of any being obliged to sell their furniture; I do not know that the woman never sold her furniture, but I know that she was not forced to do it by the board; this woman, it appears, very likely sold her furniture when she went to live with her sister; she could not put all her furniture into one room, and the sister is allowed one room by the feoffee.

9471. Then can you, from your knowledge, speak to the facts of this particular case?—I cannot, for I never saw the woman till a short time ago.

9472. *Chairman.*] Turn to 7132 and 8252; the case of George Cox is described in this way: he is said to be 44 years of age, to have a wife and six children; that he had not very good health, and that last summer, about July, he sold his furniture, and his wheelbarrow, his potato fork, and his iron rake, and other things, and he burnt his bedstocks for firewood, and was under the necessity of going into the workhouse; he is stated to have remained a certain time in the workhouse, to have left it, and the youngest child when he left it had no clothes on, and was brought out as naked as when it was born: have you any observation to make upon that case?—No; this is a case that refers to the workhouse, and is better answered by the master of the workhouse; I know the woman is the very worst to manage a family, and if these things have been sold, I dare say she sold them, for, from all that I learn, it makes very little difference whether he earns 10*s.* or 20*s.*; the money is badly managed.

9473. Do you know any thing about the man having lived in barns?—No; but I do know that they did not pay their rent, and were ejected, and that would be a good reason why they could not get another house, when Lord De Grey could not get his rent, with such low rent as he asks.

9474. Is he now in the workhouse?—I think he is; he is a sickly kind of man.

9475. Mr. *Liddell.*] Is the wife a woman of bad character, disorderly or drunken?—A dirty, idle woman, that keeps herself and her family in a state of rags.

9476. Is she sick?—No, she is not; she is an able-bodied woman.

9477. Does the man bear a better character than his wife?—A much better one; I do not think that out-door relief would have been refused to him in any way, had the board thought that any moderate amount of relief would have been appropriated to the man.

9478. *Chairman.*] You think in that case out-door relief was not refused under the general regulation upon which the board acts, but upon the ground that it would not be well applied in the family?—The man was ill, and out-door relief would have been given him, but the board thought that it would be a charity to take the man in, and look after him; for whatever amount of relief they might give, it would not be applied to his use.

9479. Turn to 7152; that is the case of Richard Lack, 44 years of age, "has been

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9 May 1838.

been in the workhouse four months; he has eight children, the oldest is 12 and the youngest is nine months; he came out on the 3d of February; before he went into the workhouse he sold part of his furniture, a dung-fork, a spade, a pickaxe, a new hoe, a cast-iron pot; all this went for food; he burnt the bed-posts for firewood:" do you know any thing of him?—All that I have said respecting the wife of Cox, applies very forcibly to this woman; she is a very bad manager; the man himself held a very good situation as maltster to Mr. Odell, but he lost that through misconduct; from that time to the present he has been always hardly put to it, having so large a family, and no amount of out-door relief.

9480. Turn to 7181; that refers to the case of Joseph Clarke, who is 24 years of age, who has a wife and one child, he had two, and who states that he has only had one week's work since harvest, which would not make more than a day's work in the week, that is, at the time at which the statement is made to the witness: have you any means of knowing whether that is true?—I have not; but I know he is a man that is very seldom employed; he is a bad character, and one that people will not employ in a constant place; he is always on jobs, and never did hold a constant place.

9481. In answer to question 7184, it is stated, the child of this man died, and that you were applied to for something to provide a coffin, and you said, "If you cannot bury it, it must remain on the ground;" what have you to say to that?—It also says in the next paragraph, that that was the answer the father received from the relieving officer. I called at that man's house to ask whether they could bring the thing to my recollection, for at the time it was brought forward here I could not recollect any circumstance of the kind occurring; and the man was from home, but the woman was there, and I told the woman that such had been stated in London; and the woman says that Mr. Turner called there and asked her about it; he said, "You had a child die, had you not?" she said, "Yes." "Was it buried," he asked, "by the parish?" her answer was, "No; we had to get my friends to bury it;" he said, "Did you apply to the relieving officer about it?" "No, I did not, but Bet Browne did, and he told her he dared not give her an order for the funeral." The woman says that Turner afterwards sent for her husband to the King's Arms public-house, and asked him about it; but the husband said, the same conversation occurred with him as between her and Turner. My answer to it is, that the girl died on the Tuesday, and was registered on the same day by Elizabeth Brown, a neighbour in attendance during the child's illness: the woman asked me to give an order for a coffin; this I told her was more than I could do; if any relief of that description was wanted it must be applied for by the head of the family. If Joseph Clarke had applied to me I should have taken his application, and ordered him to appear before the board on Thursday, as the child died on the Tuesday; but had the board-day been distant, and the man had appeared unable to pay 2*s.* for a coffin, which is the price of them there, I should have ordered it, as I have done in many other instances, and desired the man to attend the next board-day for the guardians to decide whether the expenses should be considered as relief, or as a loan.

9482. That would be the course that you would have taken if the head of the family had applied?—Yes.

9483. Was Joseph Clarke living near you?—Yes, very near.

9484. Would there have been any difficulty in his making the application to you?—Not the least.

9485. Elizabeth Browne made the application?—Yes, she came to register the child; and she said, "Can you give an order for a coffin for this child?" and I said, "No, I cannot."

9486. Are you the registrar?—Yes, I am, for births and deaths.

9487. Mr. *Walker.*] Was this a young child?—Yes, four months old.

9488. *Chairman.*] What is the price at which coffins are contracted for generally in the Ampthill Union?—A full sized coffin, three-fourths of an inch thick, oiled, is 12*s.* 6*d.*; under 13 years of age, the same description, 8*s.*; children under one year old, half-inch coffins, 2*s.*; above one year, and under five, five-eighths of an inch deal, 3*s.* 6*d.*; above five, and under 13, three-fourths of an inch, blacked and oiled, 7*s.*; above 13 years of age, three-fourths of an inch, 9*s.* 9*d.*

9489. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Are those made of deal?—Yes.

9490. Mr. *Liddell.*] You state, that if the head of the family had applied, you would have entertained the application?—Yes.

9491. Would

9491. Would you have entertained the application from the mother, in the necessary absence of the father?—Yes; but I would much rather see the father, if it is possible, because it is likely that you will get a truer story from the father than from the mother; and a man would be held more responsible by the board, because, if you take the statement of the woman, the man afterwards comes before the board, and is confronted by the previous statement; and he says, "I never said so, it was my wife;" therefore I never take the application of the woman if I can avoid it.

9492. *Chairman.*] Turn to 7224. "Elizabeth Pearson, a widow, 60 years old, has five children, the eldest 19, the oldest but two is a cripple, not able to do any thing, 15 years of age; this woman used to be relieved from the parish, but for the last 12 months she has not had any; the reason why the relief was stopped was because she refused to go to Derby to the factories; her family are in a very distressed state; she had applied to the board, she states to me, seven times." Mr. Turner is asked, "Was she denied relief out of the workhouse?" "She states that she applied seven times;" and the witness takes it for granted that she was denied. Do you know this person?—The woman is not altogether sane; instead of 60 years of age she is 48, but she is not altogether a woman that is capable of taking charge of the family. I forget about her being offered any situation at Derby; I should think her not a person capable of going there; she is not mad, but half-witted.

9493. If so, should you not think it singular that she should be desired to go to Derby?—Yes; I should say that she was not a proper person for that; but I suppose it was on account of the family. I do not recollect about her being offered to go to Derby; I do not say that it was not the case; perhaps it was; they have done very badly in their own parish, and perhaps the guardians might think they would do better in Derby.

9494. Mr. *Liddell.*] Was there a demand in the manufacturing counties for labour?—There was, at that time.

9495. You cannot undertake to say that the evidence is not correct which states that she was offered work in Derby?—Certainly not; I think it may be correct.

9496. You know that she has been refused relief?—Yes; the reason is that she is an able-bodied woman, not capable of taking charge of the family, and the guardians think they will be better in the workhouse than out.

9497. *Chairman.*] Will you turn to 7253; the wages of certain parties are there spoken of as being 3*s.* or 4*s.* a week; he is asked, "How long are they considered boys?" and he says, "'Till they get married;" as far as you know the wages in that district, do you consider that the wages are correctly stated in that answer?—Am I to consider that to apply to the parish of Ampthill or the Union of Ampthill; it is totally inapplicable to the parish of Ampthill.

9498. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Is it applicable to any of the parishes in that union?—Where they are is at Pulloxhill, and I believe those boys do not get a great deal more than that.

9499. And they are considered boys till they get married, sometimes after 20 years of age?—No such thing.

9500. *Chairman.*] Turn to 7339; the case of Bernard Chappel: "A wife and four children; the oldest is 11, and the youngest is three; he has been sickly for some time. The wife was taken ill on the 17th of February; very likely to be a fever, as the typhus fever was in the neighbourhood at the time. The husband applied to the overseer for a doctor: the overseer gave him an order for one; the doctor would not attend:" do you know any thing of that case?—I only know that the order had been given to Mr. Bull, and Mr. Bull had not attended at the time that I passed the door. I passed there in company with the overseer; a little girl came to the door, and said, "Will you come in to see mother?" and I turned to the overseer, Mr. Iliff, and said, "I do not know that that would answer any good purpose; they have got all they applied for, medical relief, and that you have given them." "Yes," he said; and I turned to the girl, and said, "I do not know that it is of any use my coming in; I am going to Cranfield, and I will see Mr. Bull about it." I went up to Cranfield, but did not see him: but it will rest with Mr. Bull to explain why he disobeyed the order of the overseer, and not with me.

9501. Do you know whether Mr. Bull did go or did not go; did you inquire of Mr. Bull?—I did not see him on that occasion, and since I have been home I have not had an opportunity of going to Cranfield; another person pays that

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part; but there was a note sent to him, asking him to give any explanation about it, and I believe he has not at present; I have not heard that there has been any.

9502. Do you know any instance, either among those who have been stated before this Committee, or any instance that has come to your own knowledge, in which, according to your own opinion, death has ensued among the poor of Ampthill, for want of medical assistance?—I do not.

9503. You do not believe that in those cases which have been mentioned here, as far as you know any thing of the circumstances, the deaths so described arose from the want of medical assistance?—I do not believe it; if it did, I think in both cases the husbands had it in their power to provide that medical assistance.

9504. Turn to 7387; the case of Samuel or James Somerville: he is said to be an old man; in 7394 he is described to be 68 years of age, to live in a house belonging to the parish, and he has 1*s.* 6*d.* to live upon; his relief from the parish has been reduced from 3*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* since the passing of the new law: can you explain that?—It was reduced in my time, because the man was at work; the man has been regularly at work for Mr. Parker; he told me himself he got 6*d.* a day.

9505. And that he was regularly employed by Mr. Parker?—Yes; that was 3*s.*; and 1*s.* 6*d.* from the parish made him much better off than the generality of poor people.

9506. You are present at the board of guardians when the poor have their cases decided upon?—Always.

9507. You have been present always ever since you have been relieving officer?—I have.

9508. Have you heard the guardians tell the poor, that if they earn any thing their pay will be taken off?—No, not in that way; but the guardians have an objection to old men who are receiving full parish relief, which is 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a week, going and taking jobs at prices under the price paid to the able-bodied labourer, who is receiving no parochial assistance; they consider that it stands in the way of labour, and they consider that those men who receive assistance enough to live upon, ought not to do work to injure the able-bodied labourers, who have no parochial assistance.

9509. Would it not be much safer to reduce the amount of relief, if the men were able to earn any thing by their own labour?—It would interfere with their labour.

9510. If a man was receiving 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.*, and were able to earn, as in the case of James Somerville, 6*d.* a day, would it not be much better for the man that he should be allowed to continue in that occupation, as his strength enabled him to pursue it, than that he should be told, "You had better not work, or your pay will be taken off"?—I think it would interfere too much with the able-bodied labourer; there is a scarcity of work at particular times of the year, and those men would do it at one-half of the price that the able-bodied men would work at; it is giving relief to the farmers and not to the men, because the farmers would often take advantage of their having parish relief.

9511. Would you say in the case of old people who are capable of doing a little work, and by which they may gain some assistance from their own industry, that it was better for society generally, or for them, that they should be maintained upon the parish pay in idleness, upon the condition that they did not work, than that they should receive a smaller amount of relief, and be allowed to do what they can?—I think in the case of men who are able to do some work, they might be allowed a little parish relief, but as a general rule, when people become old, I think they ought to give them a liberal allowance to live on, and not allow them to go to work.

9512. Mr. *Estcourt.*] In the case of Somerville, are you able to state that he was in constant work?—The man told me that he was.

9513. *Chairman.*] Be so good as to read that letter from Mr. Parker, who employed him?—"James Somerville has worked with me ever since the first week in October 1836, in winter, at 3*s.* 6*d.* a week, and in summer, at 6*s.* a week, in hay time, 7*s.* a week; he was not with me for about six weeks during the last frost; I had work for him, but I have no doubt that he and Mr. Biggs wished to make out a case against the new Poor Law. James Somerville sent me word that he could not come to work this week; as his feet were so bad. To my surprise,

prise, in my way to Bedford, I saw him walking as well as usual near Ampthill.— R. Parker, Harlington Wood End, April 26, 1838." Mr. *John Marshall.* 9 May 1838.

9514. That is the person in whose employment he is working?—Yes.

9515. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Supposing, which we have no reason to doubt, the statement in that paper to be strictly correct, does it not altogether militate against the account given by Mr. Turner with respect to this individual?—It does; the fact is, that that man ought not to have had any thing, according to that, and would not have had it had I known it.

9516. *Chairman.*] Turn to 7463; the case of Samuel Bonner, of 77 years of age; do you know any thing of that case?—Yes, I do.

9517. The man is stated to be 77 years of age; before the new Poor Law was passed he used to have 2*s.* 6*d.* a week; it was afterwards taken off, and now he does not receive any thing?—Yes; it is also stated that sometimes he gets 1*s.* for gathering stones, and sometimes he cannot earn any thing. This man applied to the board on the 26th of April last; he is very deaf. The following statement was elicited from him:—"That himself and his son had set 50 acres of wheat for one gentleman, Mr. Peters, at Crawley, at 6*s.* an acre; the time it took was six weeks; and on dividing the money his son had 12*s.* more than he." Consequently this old man, who is stated to be incapable of work, earned 24*s.*, and his son 26*s.* a week, out of which they had to pay the wheat-droppers; that sufficiently proves that the man is not totally incapable of work.

George Pearce, Esq., again called in; and further Examined.

9518. *Chairman.*] TAKE those bills in your hand, and explain them?—This is a statement of the earnings of Samuel Bonner, his son Peter, and six boys who assisted him in setting 54 acres of wheat, at 6*s.* an acre, for which he received 16*l.* 4*s.* (*Vide* Appendix C.) Mr. Peters further informed me that he paid more than this, but he will not speak to the precise amount; they had engaged to do four or five acres more, but they flew from their job; the weather was indifferent. *George Pearce*, Esq.

9519. But Samuel Bonner was employed, in fact, in that work?—Yes, the old man took the job.

9520. With regard to the other bill, will you explain that?—The job was let to the old man, and his son Peter was merely his assistant; the old man did the greater part of the work.

9521. What is the amount of that bill?—Eight pounds ten shillings, paid for turnip-hoeing. (*Vide* Appendix D.)

9522. Had you that information from the farmer himself?—I had, who gave me a written statement, and signed it, which I now produce.

9523. And that bill, made out in the name of Bonner, without a christian name, refers to Samuel Bonner, and he was constantly at work and received his share of that bill?—Yes; he has been employed till very lately at stone picking, and I understand from the farmers that he earns as much as from 5*s.* to 7*s.* weekly in that employment. A farmer told me, two days ago, that he paid him 5*s.* for some stones, and that he had engaged a larger quantity which he allowed a neighbour to take: that about Christmas time he was in a public-house where this man was; that he was challenged to lay a wager for a sovereign, and some one taunted the old man that he was not worth a sovereign; he produced his purse and showed a sovereign and a half, and said he had more at home.

9524. Do you know this man?—I know him well.

9525. He is described as being 77 years of age?—And he is so; he is a remarkable old man.

9526. Is he able to do the work?—He is; there is the testimony before you.

9527. And particularly he is employed at that work?—Yes, and you will see him at work at the present time; it would be unsafe to tell him that he is an infirm man, I mean that he would be indignant at it. I believe he has a privilege of digging turf on the moor, which provides him with fuel, and I frequently meet him going home with his barrow full of turf.

9528. You consider him to be a man perfectly capable of providing for himself?—He has done so; and during the severity of the frost, I have been informed that he employed himself in picking up the droppings on the road-side which he sold.

George Pearce, Esq.

9 May 1838.

9529. Do you know what was the reason for his relief being withheld?—I can only speak as I received the information from a farmer in Westoning, that he was employed by the Duke of Bedford's bailiff in cleansing a brook between the Priestly farm and Westoning parish, and that he earned at that work about 7*s.* a week; and a rate-payer in Westoning, knowing that he was also receiving relief, thought it his duty to acquaint the relieving officer of it. I have since spoken to the man who, it was said, had forced this money upon him, and he declares to me that it was not brought back; that they were ready enough to take it.

9530. Then the statement that relief for this man had been left at a shop during the time that he had been at work for the Duke of Bedford, and that, upon understanding that the relief was ready for him at the shop, he declined to take it, is not correct?—I understood from the man who handed it over to him, the shopkeeper, that there was no reluctance to receive it; that it was never brought back.

APPENDIX.

Appendix (A.)

DIARY OF RELIEVING OFFICER.

Week ended 18	*Journies.*	*Number of Miles*		*Parishes and Paupers visited, and Business transacted.*
		on foot.	*on horseback.*	
TUESDAY the	From to			
WEDNESDAY the	From to			
THURSDAY the	From to			
FRIDAY the	From to			
SATURDAY the	From to			
MONDAY the	From to			

Signature and Date. _____ *Relieving Officer.*
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Appendix (B.)

AMPTHILL UNION.

LIST of PERSONS under Sixty Years of Age in receipt of Out Relief on the 23d December 1837.

Names.	Age.	Amount Weekly.		——	Names.	Age.	Amount Weekly.		——
Ampthill.		*s.*	*d.*		*Clophill*—continued.		*s.*	*d.*	
Sturges, Thomas -	44	1	–		Stevens, Joseph -	37	3	–	
Holloman, Sarah -	31	1	–		Carter, Mary - -	19	2	–	sick.
Money, Mary, 1st -	37	4	–		Odell, Charles -	7	1	6	an orphan.
Money, Mary, 2d -	31	4	–						
Sawyer, Mary -	48	2	–		*Cranfield.*				
Wilson, Elizabeth -	37	5	–		Battison, Mary -	45	1	–	
Clophill.					Hughes, John - -	50	4	–	
					Sinfield, Mary -	44	1	–	
Parrell, Mary -	57	2	–		Law, Mary Ann -	7	1	6	an orphan.
Parrell, Eliza - -	31	1	6		Kinns, Ann - -	48	1	6	

(*continued*)

Appendix (B.)—List of Persons under Sixty Years of Age, in receipt of Out-relief—*continued.*

Names.	Age.	Amount Weekly. s.	d.	——
Cranfield—cont^{d}.				
Minards, Sarah	57	1	–	
Parker, Joseph	52	2	6	
Roberts, Sarah	59	1	–	
Maddock, Thomas	30	8	–	sick.
Flitton.				
Stonbridge, Hannah	55	1	6	
Webb, Francis	51	3	–	
Palmer, Susan	7	1	–	fatherless.
Chapman, Francis	48	5	–	illness.
Chapman, Francis, 2^{d}	57	1	–	ditto of wife.
Flitwick.				
Jellis, Susan	5	2	–	an orphan.
Crick, Maria	52	3	6	
Deacon, Rachel	26	1	–	
Upper Gravenhurst.				
Jackson, Elizabeth	57	2	–	
Hare, Amy	42	3	–	
Parrish, James	45	5	–	and 5*s.* from club. Illness.
Chamberlain, James	24	5	–	illness.
Lower Gravenhurst.				
Harris, Mary	13	1	6	orphans.
Harris, Laurence	11	1	6	
Hawnes.				
Lancaster, Hoben	27	5	–	
Warren, Edmund	56	5	–	
West, Ann	35	2	–	
Brown, Mary	38	5	–	
Odell, Ann	50	1	6	
Whittamore, Ann	25	2	–	
Matthews, Sarah	6	2	–	an orphan.
Woodcraft, Thomas	47	2	6	sick.
Houghton.				
Kingham, Ann	59	2	6	
Kitchener, Charlotte	59	2	–	
Redman, Henry	24	3	–	
Sharp, Mary	57	1	6	
Whiteman, Sophy	35	1	6	
Atkins, Elizabeth	14	1	–	an orphan.
Burridge, Jane	37	1	–	
Caves, Alice	33	1	–	
Woodland, Ann	27	1	6	
Lidlington.				
Hardwick, Judith	53	1	3	
Hardwick, Ellen	28	1	3	
Allen, Elizabeth	37	3	6	
Ashwell, Ann	36	4	–	
Putman, Sarah	58	1	–	
Marston.				
Banks, Charles	24	1	–	
Copperwheat, Sarah	57	1	6	
Odell, John	33	5	–	
French, William	40	2	6	
French, Mary	30	2	6	
Gillett, Edith	24	3	–	
Hudson, Mary	37	3	–	
Munday, Hannah	41	1	–	
Robinson, Hannah	31	2	6	
Sinfield, Sarah	41	4	6	
Smith, Ann	45	6	–	

Names.	Age.	Amount Weekly. s.	d.	——
Marston—cont^{d}.				
Wooding, George	33	1	6	
Lancaster, Thomas	42	3	–	illness.
Wells, Elizabeth	47	4	–	illness.
Maulden.				
Cole, Sarah	50	1	6	
Sinfield, Tamar	59	1	–	
Stonbridge, Catherine	59	1	–	
Woodward, Rosanna	45	2	6	
Braybrook, Ann	33	2	–	
Ward, Ann	47	1	–	
Sinfield, Hannah	13	1	–	fatherless.
Birdsey, Ann	2	2	–	an orphan.
Richardson, John	27	6	–	illness.
Milbrook.				
Chapman, Thomas	57	6	–	illness.
Pulloxhill.				
Chandler, William	51	4	–	
Chapman, Elizabeth	42	1	6	
Mooring, Lucy	34	2	–	
Newbury, Edith	59	2	6	
Newbury, George	42	4	–	
Spendelow, Susan	19	2	–	
Abbott, Eliza	6	1	–	fatherless.
Burrowes, Frances	11	1	6	orphans.
Burrowes, Rosanna	9	1	6	
Burrowes, Hannah	6	1	6	
Keep, William	11	1	–	fatherless.
Keep, Thomas	9	1	–	
Moorhen, William	13	1	–	fatherless.
Moorhen, Sarah	10	1	–	
Shitlington.				
Arnold, Eliza	29	2	–	illness.
Dunham, John	18	2	6	
Flint, Charlotte	45	3	–	
Flint, Ann	49	2	–	
Twydell, Sarah	32	2	–	
Whittamore, Mary	48	1	6	
Brinkler, Joseph	51	2	3	
Brooks, Mary	38	4	–	
Farrer, Elizabeth	36	1	–	
Flint, Charles	38	6	–	
Stapleton, Lucy	31	5	–	
Branson, Elizabeth	6	1	6	an orphan.
Stapleton, Charlotte	14	1	–	orphans.
Stapleton, Philip	12	1	–	
Silsoe.				
Butterfield, Susan	17	1	6	
Newbury, Sarah	53	1	–	
Steppingley.				
Farmer, Susan	34	3	6	
Bunker, Judith	28	1	6	illness.
Page, Rebecca	44	5	–	
Garrett, Rhoda	26	1	6	
Westoning.				
Armsden, Charlotte	50	1	6	
Martindale, Ann	41	2	–	
Swift, Charlotte	17	3	–	
Herbert, Mary	58	1	6	
King, Margaret	58	2	6	
Lingar, Esther	48	3	6	
Cox, Jemima	50	3	–	illness.
Walton, William	33	6	–	illness.

Total cases under Sixty - - - - - 122

Appendix (C.)

Samuel Bonner & Co.

One month before St. Michaelmas 1837, and three weeks after, 54 acres of wheat, setting, at 6*s.* per acre.

About the amount of two men and six boys, at - - - £.16 4 –

William Peters,
Of Husborne Crawley, Beds.

Appendix (D.)

Sir,

I HAVE sent an account of the money which I paid Bonner & Son for turnip-hoeing.

1837:			£.	*s.*	*d.*	
July - 15	-	Paid him - - - - -	1	3	–	
22	-	ditto - - - - - -	1	10	–	
29	-	ditto - - - - - -	–	10	–	4*s.* relief.
August 5	-	ditto - - - - - -	1	–	–	
12	-	ditto - - - - - -	1	–	–	
19	-	ditto - - - - - -	1	2	–	
25	-	ditto - - - - - -	2	5	–	
			£. 8	10	–	

Joseph Gibbons,
Tingrith, Beds.

TWENTY-NINTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
9 *May* 1838.

378.

405

THIRTIETH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
10 *May* 1838.

350.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, That power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the RELIEF of the POOR under the Orders and Regulations issued by the COMMISSIONERS appointed under the Provisions of the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT; and who were empowered to report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them from time to time to THE HOUSE;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

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WITNESSES.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Jovis, 10° *die Maii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Scrope.
Lord Howick.	Mr. Walker.
Mr. Langdale.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Thomas Bennett*, called in; and Examined.

9531. *Chairman.*] ARE you the steward of the Duke of Bedford?—I am.

9532. Do you know a man of the name of James Reed?—Yes.

9533. Has he been employed by you at any work?—From 1834, for three years, he was almost constantly employed by me; at least for the greater part of the year.

9534. What wages did you give him?—He was chiefly at that time working at task-work and different descriptions of husbandry work.

9535. What were his earnings?—His day-pay was 10*s.* a week, which they draw once a fortnight; the bills are settled once a month or six weeks, and then the task-work runs from 11*s.* to 12*s.* 6*d.*, sometimes 13*s.* a week.

9536. Was he, during the three years that he was working for you, chiefly employed at task-work?—Chiefly at task-work, not constantly.

9537. During the time he was working for you, was he earning from 11*s.* to 12*s.* 6*d.*, or 13*s.* a week?—Just so.

9538. When did he cease to work for you?—He went off from me in April 1837, into farmers' work.

9539. With what farmer was he working after that?—I do not know where he worked during the hay-time, I believe at different places; but he harvested with William Marryatt.

9540. Did he apply for work to you on the 26th or 27th of December last?—He did.

9541. Did you give him work?—I did; I sent him to work at a drain; he applied late in the season, but the principal part of my work was engaged, and I put him to draining.

9542. What did he earn at that?—He was engaged for three weeks, till the storm began, and for this he had 12*s.* a week.

9543. Did you employ him during the storm?—I did, during the whole of the storm, at 10*s.* a week.

9544. Did he leave you after the storm?—After the storm the farmers' work had become very plentiful; there was a great demand for labour, and I discharged Reed as being one of the last men that had come to work for me, and 13 other labourers, and they went to work for other farmers.

9545. Do you happen to know whether, when you discharged him, he got into work?—He has only been three days out of work since he left me, that I know.

9546. What has he been earning at the work he has been employed at?—He says 1*s.* 6*d.* a day.

9547. He tells you that, does he?—I have not seen him myself, but that is the information I had from my foreman last night.

9548. You sent to your foreman to inquire, did you?—Yes.

9549. Has he a garden cropped with wheat and potatoes?—He had 40 poles of ground, for which he pays 8*s.* a year; and his cottage-rent is 50*s.* a year.

 9550. Have

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9550. Have you any notion of the value of the crop in the ground?—The crop in the ground last year, the wheat and potatoes which he had upon it, was worth 4*l.* at least.

9551. Does his eldest son work for any body?—For William Marryatt.

9552. What does he earn with him?—Five shillings a week.

9553. Does he pay any thing for his lodging?—Three shillings and sixpence a week for his board and lodging, reserving 1*s.* 6*d.* to himself.

9554. Three shillings and sixpence therefore goes to increase his father's means?—Yes.

9555. Does his second son work for any body?—The second son did work for the Duke of Bedford upon a farm, and he had 3*s.* a week, and they took him home.

9556. Who took him home?—His family took him home.

9557. Why?—There was no reason given; but I understood the chief reason was, that his labour at straw-plaiting was worth more than he was earning at this farm.

9558. Do you know what he could earn at straw-plaiting; are you acquainted with the value of straw-plaiting?—I can judge from my general knowledge of the habits of the people in the neighbourhood, and I think that boy could earn 3*s.* 6*d.* a week at straw-plaiting.

9559. He had earned 3*s.* a week upon this farm; should you have continued him at those wages if they had not taken him away?—He was not in my department; but I know that the bailiff of the Duke of Bedford would not have turned the boy away; he was taken away voluntarily.

9560. He left the employment at which he was earning 3*s.* a week, at the request of his family?—Yes.

9561. And for the purpose of plaiting straw, at which he could earn, you believe, more than 3*s.* a week?—Yes.

9562. Has James Reed two girls?—He has, who are excellent straw-plaiters.

9563. What do you suppose those girls could earn each?—I should think the two girls could earn from 5*s.* to 6*s.* a week between them.

9564. That is about 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* a week each?—Yes; they are two of the best plaiters in Ridgmont, and I think the eldest girl could earn 4*s.* a week.

9565. Is Reed's wife a straw-plaiter?—She is an exceedingly good straw-plaiter.

9566. What do you suppose she could earn a week?—She has a young family, and I imagine cannot do much at it; but she cuts the straws for the others.

9567. Then, from your statement, the earnings of this man and his family are not less than 21*s.* a week?—I believe those are the actual earnings; I have given a statement of what the man states himself, but I do not think the man has stated the whole truth.

9568. This is the statement which James Reed appears to have signed himself; do you happen to know how this paper was obtained from the man?—I desired my foreman, James Line, to go and get those particulars, last night.

9569. The particulars stated by the man are these, that James Reed states himself to be earning 9*s.* a week; do you believe that to be true?—Yes, I dare say that is the case.

9570. Robert Reed to be earning 3*s.* 6*d.* a week?—That is the money he gives his father for his board and lodging; he earns 5*s.*

9571. Mercy Reed is stated to earn 1*s.* 6*d.* a week; do you believe that, from your knowledge of the occupation of girls of her age, to be a true statement?—I do not; I think she earns more than double that if she is kept at her work.

9572. Ann Reed is stated to earn 1*s.* 6*d.* a week; do you believe that to be a true account?—She is a younger girl, and I should say she earns 2*s.* 6*d.*

9573. Jesse Reed is the boy who was working under the Duke of Bedford at 3*s.* a week, and who was brought home at the request of the family, and he is stated to earn 2*s.* a week; do you think it probable that they would have taken him from the employment at which he was earning 3*s.* a week, if he could have earned only 2*s.* at home?—I should say not.

9574. You do not, therefore, believe that to be an accurate statement of his earnings?—I do not.

9575. Then there are George Reed and Amos Reed, who earn nothing; that, on the man's own statement, makes the earnings of himself and his family to be 17*s.* 6*d.* a week?—Yes.

9576. You believe that to be inaccurate, to the extent you have stated?—I think it is inaccurate to the extent of 3*s.* 6*d.* at least.

9577. You think, therefore, that the true earnings of this man and his family may be said to be 21*s.* 6*d.* a week?—I feel satisfied that they are.

9578. Mr. *Fielden.*] You know James Reed; you have said you have known him for some time?—He has been in my employ, more or less, since 1834.

9579. Do you know the number of his family?—He has six children.

9580. Six children living with him?—Yes, and a wife.

9581. Making, together, eight in family?—Yes.

9582. The income that he himself states to you the family earn, is 17*s.* 6*d.* a week?—Yes, what he stated to my foreman last night, not myself.

9583. But you believe that to have come from James Reed himself?—I believe so.

9584. What rent has he to pay?—Fifty shillings for his cottage, and 8*s.* for 40 poles of garden ground besides.

9585. What do his tools cost him?—That I do not know.

9586. Have you ever visited this cottage?—I have not been in it very recently; it is a cottage that I have the management of, because it is a cottage of the Duke of Bedford.

9587. Have you visited the cottage where James Reed lives?—I have not been in his cottage within two years.

9588. Can you say whether he has any furniture in his house?—I am perfectly willing to admit that he is in a most wretched, distressed condition, and if he had twice as much money as he has he would be the same.

9589. What does that arise from?—I believe from extravagant and improvident habits on the part of his wife; the man is an industrious man, and would not sell his furniture, but he has a bad partner.

9590. How does the wife manifest her extravagance?—My foreman said, that the neighbours declared to him that the frying-pan was set to work on Saturday night, and they live in that sort of way as long as the money lasts.

9591. How long will the money last him which you have described him to have, when they have set the frying-pan to work in the manner you state?—I have every reason to believe that, at the end of the fortnight, they are at short commons; they have not so much as they have at the beginning of the fortnight.

9592. Have you reason to believe that this man is sometimes in a state that he wants that food which a labouring man ought to have?—I would not say that; I do not know that of my own knowledge. I know that he is not so well off at the end of the fortnight as he is at the beginning.

9593. But with the earnings which you have stated for eight persons, if that extravagance is shown at the commencement of the week, when they have had their wages, would it not be soon expended, so that, at the latter end of the week, there might be a scarcity of food?—I should think that follows, as a matter of course.

9594. A person visiting that house might have found them in that state, without having any food in the house?—I do not know that he might not or that he might.

9595. Is it not possible, from what you have stated, that he might, at the latter end of the week, be wanting for that food and nourishment which he ought to have?—I think a man, known to be in constant employment, and having to receive 10*s.* the next day, that the baker would trust him for a loaf of bread for that day.

9596. You think the credit of this man was so good as to enable him to obtain credit with the baker?—Yes, I should think so, when a man is in constant employment; I know that bakers do give credit for a week or a fortnight.

9597. Then, though this man is as poor as you have described him, he still has credit, you think, in the neighbourhood where he lives?—I should say he has.

9598. Is he a man of good character?—I have nothing to say against the man's character; he is a civil quiet labourer.

9599. Is he a man whom you would doubt of telling the truth?—I think if you want to get the earnings of those people, you, or any person you send down to this country, must have a sweet-savoured tongue to get any thing like the truth out of them; they will tell you the truth as far as it goes, but they will not tell you the whole truth; there is always a little mental reservation.

9600. Would you consider a man to bear a good character who was in the habit of telling untruths?—I am not so intimately acquainted with this man as to know

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know whether he is guilty of telling untruths or not; but if he stated that he had nothing but salt and water for his dinner, I consider that he was not telling the whole truth; I consider that there was something beyond salt and water.

9601. Do you conceive that it is possible that he might tell such a story?—He might tell it.

9602. Do you know that he was seen in the fields by the man to whom he told this story?—Yes, I do.

9603. Do you know that, before he went home, this man went to the cottage where he resided in order to ascertain whether there was food in the cottage, and to observe the state in which the family were?—Yes.

9604. If you, as a stranger, had done that and found the cottage destitute of food, and no appearance of any thing to eat, and the man had come in afterwards, and both the man and the wife stated that he had nothing but salt and water for his dinner that day, would you have believed the man to tell the truth or what was false?—I think to any stranger going amongst those people, prying into their affairs, and asking what they had for dinner, it is very likely they would not tell him the whole truth.

9605. Still you think the man deserving of a good character?—I have nothing to say against the man's character.

9606. The man himself you have known for many years?—I have known him since 1834.

9607. He has been in your employment since that time?—Yes.

9608. And you have had frequent opportunities of knowing whether the man is in the habit of telling you falsehoods or not?—No; the man comes and gives me money's worth for my money, and I do not ask him any thing.

9609. Did you put the question to the man whether he had nothing but salt and water for his dinner on that day?—No.

9610. *Chairman.*] Have you seen him frequently since?—I have; but I never asked the question; I was not aware of this salt and water when I saw him.

9611. Have you seen him since this case was mentioned to the Committee?—No.

9612. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have not thought it worth while to go to the cottage in order to see the state in which it is?—I have not.

9613. *Chairman.*] You have said that you have not thought it worth your while to see this man since you heard of the salt and water?—I was from home yesterday morning; I did not get home till six o'clock in the evening, and I heard of it then for the first time.

9614. Have you had an opportunity personally of making any inquiries of the man?—No; of course I ought to think it worth my while to make inquiries, if I heard of a man being in such destitution that he was living upon salt and water; because it would be neglect of my duty, being steward of the Duke of Bedford, and he being a tenant of the Duke's, if I had not inquired into it.

9615. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you given in the statement made by the man himself?—Yes.

9616. Where did you get it from?—My foreman got it from the man himself, and brought it to me this morning.

9617. In London?—No, in the country; I left the country this morning, and came up by the railway.

9618. Have you come up for the express business of putting in this statement?—I understood that evidence had been given before this Committee last Tuesday relative to a person of the name of Reed, and I was desired to inquire into the circumstances, and send them up; I was coming to town, and therefore I brought it myself.

9619. You are not come up entirely for this purpose?—No, I have other business in town; I very frequently come to town.

9620. But having to come and give evidence before this Committee on this subject, you did not think it worth your while to go to the man's cottage?—I did not, certainly; I would not say that I did not think it worth my while; but I had not time.

9621. Do you think that there was such necessity for this breathless haste, that you could not take time to do that?—I had other business in town.

9622. Are you acquainted with what boys and girls can earn at straw-plaiting in that neighbourhood?—As regards what a girl can do at straw-plaiting, I do not know myself; but my foreman told me last night that his sister-in-law had received

received from the person employed by Mr. Waller of Luton 16*s.*, for her straw-plaiting for four weeks.

9623. What age is she?—About the age of this Mercy Reed, about 14 or 15 years of age.

9624. What description of plait is she employed on?—I do not know; I am not a sufficient judge of the nature of plait myself; I only speak from the information which this man gives me.

9625. The information was given you by another?—Yes; not from the girl herself; from the brother-in-law of the girl.

9626. Who had opportunities of knowing?—He had it from this girl, he said.

9627. There are different descriptions of straw-plait in Bedfordshire?—Yes.

9628. Can they earn the same wages at all the different sorts?—There is a difference in the manufacture, and a difference in the efficiency of those who make the plait.

9629. Is there not a difference in the amount they can earn, persons of the same capacity, whether they are employed in one description or in another description of plait?—I cannot give an opinion upon that.

9630. A person acquainted with the trade can speak more satisfactorily upon it?—I have no doubt of it.

9631. How long do they work at this?—I should think as long as the day is light; it is an easy work; I see them, when I go through the villages, working at it; they work at it, and chat and talk at the same time.

9632. Do you know how long this girl that you have spoken of had to work in order to earn 4*s.* a week?—I do not; I can only speak of her having earned this money.

9633. You cannot say what description of work she was engaged in?—No.

9634. Do you know what outgoings the straw-plaiters have?—No, I do not.

9635. Have they to furnish any materials themselves?—They have to buy the materials; I take it that this was the net cash.

9636. That was the information, that, exclusive of the cost of the materials, she had 4*s.* a week?—Yes, so I understood it.

9637. You said that the wife of James Reed is an excellent plaiter, but you have not said that she earned any thing?—She has a young family, and I imagine the whole of her time is taken up in her household duties; but she, I imagine, prepares the straws for the others.

9638. Mr. *Miles.*] From your knowledge of the living and habits of the poorer classes in Bedfordshire, do you think it possible that a man who gives in the earnings of himself and family at 17*s.* 6*d.* per week, could be in such a state of destitution, as, at the end of a fortnight, to be without a meal of any kind for dinner, if proper economy had been used?—I do not believe it is possible; I think there must have been great improvidence.

9639. Mr. *Barneby.*] Did I understand you correctly in saying that the wife of Reed was an extravagant and improvident woman?—Yes, I stated so; that was the information I had.

9640. And therefore is it your opinion that, in consequence of that extravagance and improvidence, even if the man had received higher wages than he did, he might have been reduced to this state of destitution at the end of the week?—I believe that, whatever he received, it would all have gone.

9641. *Chairman.*] The man gave in the earnings to your foreman at 17*s.* 6*d.*?—Yes.

9642. The statement he gave to a former witness whom the Committee have examined, is 13*s.* 9*d.*; therefore, the statement he made to your foreman is utterly at variance with the statement he appears to have made to the person who went down into the country?—From the knowledge that I have of the man and his family, the statement I have produced this morning must be more nearly correct than the statement of 13*s.* 9*d.*

9643. Should you think it reasonable that a man receiving the amount of wages which Reed has stated that he received should apply to the parish for any assistance from the parochial funds?—In times gone past, of course he would, but now he would not.

9644. Do you think it reasonable that a man earning what you have described himself and his family to earn, should receive assistance from the parochial funds?—I consider not, decidedly not.

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9645. Do you think that that amount of earnings is sufficient, with tolerable management, to keep a man in the decent comforts of life?—I can judge only from comparison; but I have many other labourers under me who are not earning so much, and who have larger families, and who are people in better condition.

9646. Mr. *Fielden.*] Was this man in your employ in March last?—Last March, after the storm was gone over, there was a great deal of demand for labourers, and I parted with my labourers earlier this season than I had ever done before; and Reed, as being one of the last men that applied to me, went off with the first men that went off; and there were 12 or 13 men that I discharged at that time; they went to take work of the farmers.

9647. In the statement that Reed made, he said "that he was then working for the Duke of Bedford," that was in March last?—That must have been at the beginning of March.

9648. Are you aware that prior to that time the man had lately buried a child?—He might; I was not aware of that.

9649. I understand that he stated that he had to incur some expense in the burial of his child?—It is very probable.

9650. And that it was of no use to make any application for credit, for he did not see that he should have the means of paying it again, if he obtained any. Can you conceive that that might be the state of this man?—Of course the man knows his own affairs better than I do; I should have thought, in the receipt of such earnings, he was in better credit than that.

9651. Do not the Bedfordshire labourers, many of them, struggle hard to avoid getting into debt?—I think it is a natural feeling of any body to do so, and I do not think the Bedfordshire labourers are different in that respect from other labourers; I have no reason to think so.

9652. Are they not obliged to be extremely thrifty, and to husband their resources in the best manner, in order to avoid being in debt?—They ought; there is a great difference between individuals in that respect.

9653. Are they in that necessity, from the small income they receive for their labour?—I should think, taking the class of people, they are; but there are great differences between them, as there are between persons in every station in life.

Mr. *John Marshall*, again called in; and further Examined.

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9654. *Chairman.*] TURN to 7509, the case of Thomas Bunker; he is stated to be infirm, that he used to have 2*s.* a week from the parish, and that since the new law the relief has been stopped, and that they have offered him the workhouse, and that he is not an able-bodied man, and that his age is 70; have you any thing to say with regard to Thomas Bunker?—I take Thomas Bunker to be an able-bodied man, from his earnings.

9655. What do you know of his earnings?—He is, in the first place, village-barber; he earns considerably at that.

9656. What do you imagine his earnings as village barber may be?—I should say that not less than 2*s.* a week he can earn at that; and when I say 2*s.*, I think I go much under it; he is also a good chaff-cutter, and gets a considerable sum at that; and he is also a gardener, at least he works in the gardens both of Mr. Whitehurst and Mr. Woodward; and with Mr. Woodward he gets 1*s.* a day and his victuals; with Mr. Whitehurst he gets 1*s.* a day, but whether he gets his food there I am not prepared to say.

9657. You consider Thomas Bunker, with the occupations you have described, to be able to provide for himself?—I do consider him to be quite able to provide for himself.

9658. Turn to 7545; Susan Deacon, widow, aged 49, with five children: this widow had formerly 7*s.* a week; it was reduced to 5*s.* 6*d.*, afterwards to 4*s.* 3*d.*, and then to nothing; and she was told that if she liked it she might go to Derby to the factories; if she would not go there she must have no relief, and none she has had since?—This Susan Deacon (her eldest girl is 18 years of age, has recently been delivered of a bastard child), I perceive she has a boy 16 years of age, has been at piece-work all the winter, working at Mr. Brooks's, except during the suspension of work in bad weather, and then he went home to plaiting; she has a boy 13 years of age, he has 3*s.* a week at sheep-keeping; and two girls, 10 years and 8 years of age, are plaiters, who would be able to earn 3*s.* a week more. The woman also is a midwife; she is stated by a farmer in the neighbourhood to have had

had an average of two cases a week. He says that he heard the woman say, that she had four cases in the month of March, herself. He took that rather as the average than otherwise; but, however, considering the number of parishes that she attends, he thinks still that she has not less than four cases a week. I am not at all prepared to say myself, except from the number of parishes that she attends, and I think it is very likely that she does have a considerable number of cases, perhaps as many as four a week.

9659. Is she a midwife in considerable practice?—Yes.

9660. What do you imagine her to receive in each case?—Four shillings in each case; there was a woman lived in Ampthill, who used to charge 5*s.* a case, and this woman took it at 4*s.* a case, upon an understanding that she was to have ready money, and thereby obtained the custom that this other woman used to get.

9661. She is stated to receive not 4*s.* but 3*s.* a case; which do you believe to be true?—I believe, from the inquiries I have made, that 4*s.* is the sum that she receives; but there may have been cases in which she could not get more than 3*s.*

9662. And there may be cases in which she does not recover the money?—Yes, there may be; and when she is not so employed she may be employed in lace-making; but I think she is employed in cutting straws for the children.

9663. Have you ever been in her house?—I have not been inside of it.

9664. You do not know any thing as to the furniture of the house?—No, I do not; she never was under my payment until they had the small-pox, and then I did not like to go into the house; I thought it was not right to do so, because I was then going about among other people, and I might have carried it in my clothes, and infected others.

9665. During the time that the small-pox was in the family did they receive relief?—Very liberally, I thought.

9666. Do you believe this woman, considering what you know of her own earnings as a midwife, and of the earnings of the family, to be in a state of destitution or distress?—I do not; I believe her to be quite able to get her own living; the very dress of the family would show that they were any thing but in distress.

9667. Is there any thing in the woman's appearance which would indicate that she was in distress?—Nothing.

9668. Does she appear decently clad?—Very decently clad.

9669. In good health?—Yes; this daughter of hers is perhaps one of the best plaiters in our county, but she has had a bastard child, on the 24th of April; I did not know that the girl was pregnant, though I often saw her.

9670. Turn to 7628; Sarah Jellis, of Flitwick, is aunt to four orphan children, whom she has brought up; she had originally with those children 9*s.* a week, up to the building of the workhouse, after which the board of guardians took off 1*s.*, and then 2*s.*, then 2*s.* more very soon after they took the other 2*s.*, and this reduced the allowance to 4*s.*; they afterwards took all off; this was all done in less than 12 months, and she was ordered to the board; do you know any thing with regard to this woman?—I am not aware that the allowance was ever all taken off, but it might have been; if it was, it was before I had any thing to do with the payment; but, however, she gets 2*s.* a week allowed, not for herself, but for the younger child, who is a girl, a bastard child, by the bye; her mother had her by a married man after the death of her husband; but she is an orphan; the eldest girl she has is 17 or 18 years of age, a perfectly able-bodied young woman, and cannot be called a child; the boy, of 16, is at service with his uncle at Cranfield, Mr. Jellis; the boy, 11, does plaiting at home, and can earn 3*s.* a week, and she has 2*s.* allowed for the younger child; I see nothing in her case that approaches hardship.

9671. What is she able to earn herself?—She is a perfectly able-bodied woman, able to earn her own living.

9672. Is she living free of rent?—She is, in a cottage of her own on parish ground.

9673. Mr. *Barneby.*] Is it the custom of the Ampthill Union to relieve bastard children out of the house?—If they were born before the Act; but this is the case of an orphan child; we do not consider whether it is a bastard or not, if the child is an orphan; this child properly ought to be in the house, but they do not like to take it away from this woman, because she has had it so long.

9674. This is an exception to the general rule?—It is.

9675. But you do not make that exception because the child was born before the Act, and the mother of it has since died?—No, we do it on account of this woman.

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thinking that the woman would take care of it, being its aunt; but I should think the child would be much better brought up in the house.

9676. *Chairman.*] Turn to 7667; the case of Sarah Cox, belonging to Maulden parish, who has been a widow five years, with six children; "altogether they earn about 8 *s.* a week, including the mother; this widow had, before the new law was passed, 5 *s.* a week; her children are girls, with the exception of the oldest; she received different sums from the parish, and at present she receives, I think, nothing;" does she now receive any thing?—Yes; she has applied to the board lately, and receives relief now, in consequence of one or two of her children being ill.

9677. That is casual relief, and not permanent?—Yes.

9678. What do you know of the circumstances of this woman?—This woman has a father possessing property, who did assist her, and, I suppose, does so still; she was paid 3 *s.* a week up to the twelfth week of the quarter, ending the 26th of March; she was offered employment in the manufacturing districts, and agreed to go; a place was got for her, but when the offer was made for her to go she then declined going; to the best of my knowledge and belief, she never appeared at the board afterwards, and if she did appear, from the rule which the board had made at the time, she would have been offered the workhouse, in consequence of her husband having been transported; she is not a widow, but the wife of a convict.

9679. Mr. *Miles.*] Am I to understand that it is the rule of the board, if the wife of a convict is left with children, to order her into the workhouse?—Yes, as a general rule, the only relief afforded to the wife or the children of a man convicted of any offence, is in the workhouse.

9680. When was that passed?—On the 3d of March 1836, but that rule has since been amended in some measure; on the 28th of April following it was amended in this way, that the only relief given to the wife or family of a man convicted of any offence since the commencement of the union, shall be in the workhouse.

9681. *Chairman.*] Do you know that the eldest daughter of Sarah Cox is subject to fits?—I believe she is not very healthy.

9682. The two eldest girls are said to be subject to fits?—I am not at all aware that two of them are, but I think one of them has fits.

9683. Should you think that her state of health would preclude her from earning the usual amount by straw-plaiting, or any other occupation?—Yes, she might not realize quite so much, because if the girl had a fit she would perhaps not be working for the remainder of the day, but, as a general rule, I should not think it would make a great deal of difference in the amount of their earnings.

9684. Have you been to this woman's house?—Yes.

9685. Does she appear to be in circumstances of distress or difficulty?—She has never appeared to me to be so; I have seen her many times; she never made any application to the board, after refusing to go to the manufacturing districts.

9686. Might not that have been under an apprehension that she had no chance of receiving relief unless she went to the manufacturing districts?—I cannot say what her apprehensions might be.

9687. Mr. *Barneby.*] Does the rule prohibiting out-door relief to the wives of persons who have been transported apply also to the wives of persons who may be convicted and sentenced to imprisonment?—It does.

9688. Do you know the cause which induced the board to enter into that resolution?—They consider that few cases of that sort arise, but what the wife is cognizant of the fact, and often as much to blame as the man, by participating in his pilferings or dishonest earnings.

9689. Is that rule applicable to all persons, whether the wives are of good character or not?—As a general rule we act upon it.

9690. Is any inquiry made into the character of the wives?—Yes.

9691. Is any exception made if their characters are good?—It then becomes an exception to the general rule.

9692. *Chairman.*] Is this case an instance of an exception being made?—No, it is not.

9693. Is there any thing against this woman's character?—I do not know that there is; it is so long ago now that the rule was made, only newly then.

9694. Mr. *Barneby.*] In all cases the Committee is to understand that out-door relief is refused to the wives of persons who have been convicted of any offences?—In all cases, as a general rule; but if a woman should prove any circumstances,

circumstances, or if there are any peculiar circumstances connected with it, she is considered as an exception to this rule, and out-door relief is afforded to her.

9695. Does this rule apply to the wives of persons who are summarily convicted before magistrates?—Yes.

9696. Mr. *Miles.*] And at petty sessions?—Yes.

9697. How many cases of exception to this rule have you in the Ampthill Union?—I cannot say, not many; we have not many convictions of the kind.

9698. *Chairman.*] One of the woman's children, you say, was in bad health, or subject to fits?—Yes.

9699. Should you not think that circumstance made it improper to advise the removal of this woman, in order to be employed in manufactories in the north of England?—No, because the remainder of her family were considered eligible for that employment.

9700. Those children, at all events, who were subject to fits would have been unfit to be employed in the factories?—Yes; but that child was 20 years of age, and capable of judging for herself.

9701. Mr. *Barneby.*] Do you know whether this rule, prohibiting out-door relief to the wives of persons convicted, is made in any other union but that of Ampthill?—I do not know, it is considered a very wholesome rule; this child who is subject to fits, I perceive, is 14 years of age; it is not the eldest one.

9702. *Chairman.*] Turn to 7713; the case of Charlotte Palmer; and 7738: she is stated to be a widow with five children, the eldest 16 and the youngest 10; she has been in respectable circumstances, but is now reduced, in consequence of some litigation, in which she was involved; she received 5*s.* a week; that was afterwards reduced to 1*s.*, and then taken off; she was also told that she might have employment in the factories, and she was to have gone into the neighbourhood of Leeds; do you know any thing of that case?—I know that her allowance was taken off, not because she would not go to the factories at Leeds; I was relieving officer; her shilling was taken off because it was thought she could do without it, being an able-bodied woman, and having people of property connected with her and living near her, who were known to assist her.

9703. In what relationship did they stand to her?—Brother and sister.

9704. Do you know that brothers and sisters are not, by law, compellable to relieve their relations?—I know that.

9705. What were the circumstances of the woman herself; was she herself, with her children and those living with her in the family, capable of maintaining themselves?—The board so considered.

9706. Are you conversant with her circumstances?—I am.

9707. Have you seen her yourself?—Yes.

9708. Have you been in her house?—I have.

9709. Will you state what you believe of her case?—The application-book will show her family to be different from what is stated; she has a son who is a servant, 23 years of age, not mentioned here; she has also a daughter 21 years of age.

9710. Do you know any thing of the son's wages, whether he is capable of assisting her at all?—I am not aware.

9711. What is the daughter of 21 doing?—At home with her; a plaiter.

9712. What should you suppose that daughter could earn?—Four shillings or 5*s.* a week.

9713. What other family has she?—A boy 17 years of age.

9714. What is he doing?—A butcher's boy.

9715. Does he live with her?—No, he lives at Bedford, he did at the time this was taken; she has a boy 16 who lives with her, and he is described here as the eldest; he is a labourer and quite capable of earning his own living; she has a boy also 12 years of age, who if he cannot earn his living at agriculture can by plaiting; and she has a boy 10 years of age, who could earn 2*s.* a week if he was kept at work; and she herself keeps a school.

9716. What does she earn by keeping the school, do you suppose?—That would depend upon the number of scholars she has; I am not prepared to say the number she has, but I should say she earns a good living, and she takes in needlework; she is an excellent needle-woman.

9717. You do not consider her in circumstances to require relief?—I do not; and that was the board's reason for striking her off.

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9718. Do you know any cases of widows with children, who have had their allowance increased since the introduction of this law?—I am not prepared with any list of that kind; I am not aware that there are any instances of that.

9719. In number 7776 it is said, with respect to aged persons, as far as Mr. Turner can judge from memory, and from what he heard, he should say that 20 have been reduced where one has been advanced?—That is speaking of the aged and infirm; I would here beg leave to hand in a list of 129 instances of people having had their allowances raised; and if the former witness can multiply that by 20, there are more paupers in the union than I am aware of.

[*The Witness delivered in the List:*—Vide *Appendix*, No. 1.]

9720. In 7873 the witness is asked, whether he is aware that in that part of the country there are clothing clubs; and he says, "I have known clothing clubs, but I have not met with any thing of that sort in Bedfordshire"?—I have a list, which will show 774 men who have entered benefit clubs, and 900 who have entered medical clubs.

9721. Since when?—Since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act; that is, 774 men have provided for themselves in sickness by entering benefit clubs, and even have provided medical attendance for themselves by entering into medical clubs.

9722. Are the subscriptions regularly paid?—They are, out of the earnings of the people and their families.

9723. How long have they continued members of those clubs; what is the date?—From 1835, the year after the passing of the Act.

9724. Have the same persons continued in the clubs after the passing of the Act?—Yes, generally.

9725. If their subscriptions had not been regularly paid, they could not have continued?—They could not.

[*The Witness delivered in the same:*—Vide *Appendix*, No. 2.]

9726. Mr. *Miles.*] What sums of money do they pay to the benefit clubs?—They pay 16*d.* a month generally; those who pay 16*d.* a month get 9*s.* a week; those who pay a less sum, 15*d.* or 1*s.*, the odd pence are for mere spending money, and 1*s.* is the proper money they pay.

9727. What is the greatest class, those who pay the highest or the lowest?—I am not aware; I cannot state that.

9728. What do they pay to the medical clubs a month?—They pay 1*s.* a quarter for a man or his wife, 9*d.* for a male child after 14, 6*d.* for a female child after that, and 4*d.* for children under that age.

9729. Are those who have joined the medical clubs men, generally speaking, with families?—Yes, and many of them also members of benefit clubs themselves, and they place their families in those medical clubs, many of them.

9730. Have you any calculation that will show the number that belongs to both?—I have not; it was with very great difficulty that I could get this list; I could only get it from the medical gentlemen who attended them, and they know very little of the families; nor are any of those paupers, that I should know any thing of them myself.

9731. But you conceive the list you have put in to be perfectly authentic?—Perfectly so, because I had it from the medical gentlemen who get paid; the list is headed in this way: the parish in which the club is formed; the nature of the club, whether benefit or medical; the year when established; and the number of members in each club.

9732. *Chairman.*] Turn to 7931; that refers to the case of a man of the name of John Knight: this man's family is said to subsist upon an income which gives to each of them 4¾*d.* per week; do you believe, from your knowledge of the circumstances of the country, that any family can subsist upon an average income of 4¾*d.* a week per head?—Certainly not; and I am quite prepared to say that the woman herself can earn 3*s.* a week by plaiting and charing, even supposing the man to do nothing.

9733. Do you know John Knight?—I know him well.

9734. What is he?—He is rather an infirm man, but his wife is a perfectly able woman.

9735. Do you know any thing of his family?—His family has left him and gone to service, I understand, recently; but he had a family of sons that were able

to

to bring him in a very good living when they lived with him, and I suppose they assist him still; I think it very likely.

9736. His family is stated to consist of four persons, his wife and two children?—The two children are grown-up sons; if they are taken into account; I should say that those two sons could earn 4*s.* a week each, and the wife 3*s.*

9737. And the man?—If the man is in work I should say that that man never gets less than 1*s.* a day.

9738. Do you know whether he is in work?—I do not.

9739. To what parish does he belong?—To Westoning.

9740. Has he applied for relief?—He has applied for relief; I have relieved him many times.

9741. If the man is incapable of working, would there be any difficulty in giving him relief?—When he is ill and incapable of working he has relief till he is better; but the man is not one of that class who ought to be placed on the permanent list; he is always relieved during illness.

9742. Do you know any thing of the circumstances of the family mentioned in 7958, of the name of Brinckley?—I know the man very well.

9743. What do you know of that man's family?—He has three young children.

9744. What is the man himself?—An able-bodied man, of about 33 years of age.

9745. Earning the usual wages of the country?—Yes.

9746. Does he live in the parish of Westoning?—He does.

9747. If he were not employed as a labourer, would he be employed at plaiting?—I think not; I think he is an exception to the general rule, that he is not a plaiter; he has told me so, and I have never observed any indication of plaiting upon his fingers; but when he is not employed in labouring, I think he goes about buying hare-skins, and rags and phials, and those kind of things.

9748. Do you believe that the income of this man's family is so small, as only to give them 9*d.* per week per head?—No, I do not believe it.

9749. What are your reasons for not believing it?—Because, in the first place, I think the man earns the average wages of a labourer almost all the year round; and, in the next place, his wife is a plaiter, and able to earn something; he has four children; his children are young, and therefore they would prevent the woman from earning so much as she would otherwise be able to earn; but I cannot imagine for a moment that the man would be reduced to 9*d.* a week for each member of the family, because that would make, with himself and his wife, only 4*s.* 6*d.* a week the whole year round; and I think the woman might very well earn 2*s.* out of that.

9750. What age are the children?—His eldest child is eight years of age.

9751. What is the youngest?—Nearly three, now.

9752. Have you seen this man frequently?—Very frequently.

9753. Does he appear to you to be in distressed circumstances?—He has appeared distressed sometimes, and he has been to the board; and the board lent him 10*s.*, I remember, not a great while ago, to set up a basket in the hare-skin way, and rags, to go and deal with.

9754. That is one of his occupations, is it?—Yes; and I think the man earns the average wages of the labourers throughout the year; I think there could be very little doubt of that.

9755. Between the common employment of labour and his selling hare-skins, you think he earns the common wages of the country?—Yes.

9756. What do you believe those to be?—About 9*s.* they are stated; but I take the average wages of the country to be more than that, more particularly in Westoning; for there are very few of those people but what go to harvest, and go up the country to make hay, and make as much at that time as in harvest.

9757. Do you know whether this man has an allotment of ground?—I do not.

9758. 7960, is the case of William Lingar; do you know any thing of him?—Yes, I know he is a man of very bad character, a notorious poacher and a very idle man, belonging to a bad family.

9759. What is his family?—I should think he could not have much of a family; I remember he was a single man when I used to relieve him.

9760. Under those circumstances, did you relieve him?—Yes, he being out of work before we had the workhouse built; but from that time to this, I do not remember seeing him at all, except meeting him on the road, perhaps.

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9761. Has he made application to the board?—No; I should think he has not more than one child, and if he is out of work, it is because his character is so bad that people will not employ him.

9762. Turn to 8026 and 8029 and 8033; those are the cases of Redman, Reid and Clark, who are stated to have had only one day's work a week since harvest; be so good as to state any thing you know of them?—As regards William Redman, he has a wife and three children, I believe, but he is a man who is very seldom in constant work; he goes jobbing about, doing up gardens and so on, and I think lives more on the industry of his wife than any thing else; he is, in short, what I call a complete idle fellow.

9763. But, though an idle man, he has occasional employment in attending to gardens?—Yes.

9764. Do you think it probable that he should have had only one day's work since the harvest?—I think not, and I think his wife would not let him remain at home all that time while she went out charing; she is very industrious.

9765. If it is so, that he has been out of employment for that length of time, would that arise from the difficulty of obtaining employment, or from his idle habits?—From his idle habits, I should say.

9766. Do you know any thing of the case of Reid?—I do not know much of him, he came into the workhouse as an able-bodied man, and left his wife out of the workhouse; his wife earns a good deal of money.

9767. At what does she earn money?—At charing and washing; she is an industrious and discreet woman; but of himself I have not much to say in his favour, but I believe he is a man that people will not employ if they can avoid it.

9768. What is the nature of the employment that he is engaged in?—He has labouring work.

9769. Did he remain long in the workhouse?—The man is very litigious, has got a great deal to say for himself; and people do not like, perhaps, to put up with that.

9770. Did he remain long in the workhouse?—Yes, I think a whole month, but I am not prepared to say; I saw the man as I went backwards and forwards still in the place, and certainly thought it was a pity that an able-bodied man should loiter his time away there.

9771. Have you seen him lately?—Not very lately.

9772. You do not know how he is employed at this moment?—No, I do not.

9773. Do you know any thing of Joseph Clark?—Yes.

9774. What do you know of him?—He is a man that has but one child, and if he has been out of employment, it is because he is too lazy to look for it; because I am sure employment might have been had if he had looked for it, unless people have objections to his character.

9775. Is he a labourer?—Yes.

9776. Do you believe that, if that man had used the ordinary exertions to obtain employment, and his character were good, he would have obtained it?—I am sure he ought; a man of good character never applies to Mr. Swaffield and does not get work; he would make a job of some sort for a man of good character if he said he could not get work.

9777. Turn to 8285; a case in which a man of the name of Samuel Odell stated that he had no work and that his wife had nothing to eat, except water-gruel and a little milk, and that they had no fire or food of any description in the house, and that the man was told at the board that he might come and bring his wife into the workhouse, she having been confined only 40 hours before; what observation have you to make upon that statement?—The minute-book will answer that question; there is a minute of the board on the subject.

9778. I find this entry in the minute-book, in the fifth week of the quarter ending the 23d of June 1838, a fortnight ago, that he himself was offered the workhouse, and the wife, being unwell, was to be attended to; it does not, therefore, appear to be true, what is here stated, that his wife was ordered into the workhouse at that time?—Certainly not.

9779. On the contrary, the man was told that he might, if he chose, come into the workhouse, and the wife might be attended to at home?—Yes; and I was desired by the board to attend to the wife, as soon as the man came into the workhouse.

9780. Did you wait for the man coming into the workhouse before you attended to the wife?—Yes, that was the condition, because he is a man of bad character,

that

that the board will not give out-door relief to; and the wife was to be attended to under the direction of the medical man of the union.

9781. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Did you understand that the wife was confined with a child?—Yes.

9782. Mr. *Miles.*] Was the wife not to be attended to unless the man came into the workhouse?—I had no order to attend to her unless he came in.

9783. *Chairman.*] What are the wages of this man?—The ordinary wages of labourers.

9784. Was he in employment at that time?—No, he was not.

9785. Do you conceive, he not being in employment at that time, that he was able to provide medical assistance for his wife?—No.

9786. Then, do you not consider that it was the duty of the board to order medical relief for the wife?—He did not apply for medical relief.

9787. But the man probably stated, when he made his application, that his wife was lately confined?—Yes, and he asked for relief for her.

9788. The board would order no relief for her, but upon the condition that the man came into the workhouse?—Yes.

9789. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You are quite sure that the board did not propose to remove her?—They did not.

9790. *Chairman.*] Turn to 8289; the case of William Virgin, who made an application to the board: this man is stated to have "been out of work a good deal, and the wife has worked very hard at plaiting, and has contrived to eke out a living in that way; she is now confined to her bed, and it is said to be an inflammation of the breast; he applied to the board, but they would give him no relief, and last Thursday he went out to beg some bread; I saw him come in with two pieces of loaf that he had been out to beg of the neighbours; he had applied to the board and they could not do any thing for him; they ordered him a doctor"?—That is not true; he had the doctor before he saw the board; the relieving officer, the person who is acting in my situation, gave him an order for a doctor before he had seen the board.

9791. The entry in the book states, that "William Virgin is aged 25, his wife 23; he has two children; he was offered the workhouse, and the wife being unwell was to be attended to; was that the order?—It was.

9792. Was the wife attended to?—She was, in this instance.

9793. I observe that the order in the case of William Virgin is exactly the same in words as in the case of Samuel Odell; the words are these: "Offered the workhouse, and the wife being unwell, to be attended to." In the case of Samuel Odell, you interpret the words to mean, that the wife should receive no medical assistance unless he came into the workhouse?—I did not say medical assistance; he did not apply for medical assistance; she did not require it.

9794. The words in the entry are exactly the same in the two cases: "Offered the workhouse, and the wife being unwell, to be attended to," in both cases; and in one case you interpret the words to mean that the wife should not be attended to unless the man came into the workhouse; and in the other case you interpret the words to mean that the wife was to be attended to at all events, whether the man came into the house or not?—No, the cases are different; I interpret the words in both cases the same, and I should not have relieved the wife of Virgin any more than I should that of Odell, had it not been that the doctor who had seen her told me she was more in need of food than of any medicine, and that her husband he believed would not come into the workhouse; he recommended in that case that the woman should be seen to, and I gave an order that the woman should be dieted entirely under the direction of the medical gentleman.

9795. Virgin's wife, upon that recommendation of the doctor, received what the medical man ordered?—Yes.

9796. With regard to Odell's wife, what steps did you take?—I waited for Odell to fulfil his contract, and I would have taken notice of the woman.

9797. You waited till Odell came into the workhouse, and took no steps to attend to his wife?—Not until he came in.

9798. Mr. *Miles.*] Then you conceive that you acted rather contrary to the decision of the board in attending to Virgin's case?—I took it upon myself, as a case of emergency, and not according to the decision of the board.

9799. Have any similar orders been given in case of a wife being sick, and the husband not being able to support her, in which it has been made a *sine qua non*

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with the husband, that unless he came into the workhouse the wife should not receive medical relief?—I think there have not been many orders of that kind; but those men are both bad characters.

9800. *Chairman.*] When you say bad characters, will you give an explanation of that?—They are loose characters.

9801. Are they men of irregular habits of life, or merely idle men?—Odell is well known as a poacher.

9802. Is he a man who would not obtain employment as readily as any other man?—Certainly; and it is the same with Virgin; he would not obtain employment so soon as other people.

9803. Mr. *Miles.*] But does it not appear to you rather inhuman to allow that woman, merely on account of her husband's dishonesty or want of employment, to suffer from disease, and the possibility of dying, without affording her the relief necessary in her exigencies?—It appears to me from that very transaction that such would not be the case, that she would not be allowed either to suffer or to die.

9804. In the case you represent of Virgin, it so happened that the doctor of the union was attending her, and consequently it was from his own representation that you were induced to relieve her as a case of emergency?—Yes.

9805. But in the other case, the doctor was not attending her?—He was not.

9806. So that it was impossible, from the order of the board, that you should know at all the state of the woman, whether she did really want the necessaries of life and medicine?—Yes.

9807. *Chairman.*] Did you go and visit that woman?—I have not been doing the duty; I was in attendance upon this Committee; Mr. Austin took the district, I do not know whether he saw her.

9808. It is stated in 8293, with reference to William Virgin, that an order was given for a doctor to attend her, and that the doctor did not attend her; do you happen to know any thing of that case?—Yes, from the circumstance of this evidence; I called upon the doctor and asked him; he says that the order was given on the Wednesday about five o'clock in the afternoon for the doctor, and he had just then come from the parish; he asked the man why he did not come earlier than then, being out of employment; he said, "Why did not you come in business hours; now I must go all the way back to Greenfield to see your wife."

9809. Was that Dr. Hamilton?—Yes; the man said, "There is no occasion for that, I do not suppose there is any thing particularly the matter, but the fact is, I want a doctor for her, or I shall not have any other relief; he took the symptoms from the man's own description, and he found that she was afflicted with constipation of the bowels; he sent her a little opening medicine or some medicine that he considered necessary, and did not see her till Friday, and when he saw her, his opinion of her disease was confirmed, and he found that the woman was more in want of food than medicine, and it was that which induced him to come to me and speak to me upon the subject; and although I was not doing the duty of relieving officer at the time, I took upon myself to write a note to the overseer of Pulloxhill, and sent it off by her husband.

9810. It was stated that Virgin applied to the board, and was told that he might go into the house with his family and leave his wife at home; there is no memorandum in the application-book, or in the abstract of the application-book, that such was the order of the board; do you know any thing of the circumstances?—I am not aware that he was told to bring his children in; if his wife had been left, every care would have been taken of her; a nurse would have been provided.

9811. But under circumstances of this sort, should you not think it extremely harsh to offer to separate a man from his wife by taking the man into the workhouse and leaving her out?—It would depend upon the character; I am an improper person perhaps to judge of the actions of the board of guardians.

9812. Do you happen to know whether that direction was given that he might come and bring his two children in and leave his wife at home?—I do not remember any thing of that being said.

9813. The entry in the application-book is, that the workhouse was offered to this man, and that the woman was to be attended to during her illness?—That was so.

9814. Turn to 8324; the witness is asked, "When you say they have no doctor to go to if a man is ill, does he not receive medical relief in the union; supposing a man were taken ill, and were by illness to be incapacitated from working, would he not receive medical assistance?" and the answer is, "I am not aware of any

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any case where he would if he was not a pauper previously." Supposing him to be a pauper previously, the witness says, that he believes he would receive relief; what is the practice, as far as you are acquainted with it, of the board of guardians at Ampthill in that particular?—If a man, as the head of a family, falls sick and is unable to pay for the doctor, of course that constitutes him a pauper at once, and an order would be given to him for medical relief immediately upon application.

9815. And, independently of medical relief, if a man were incapacitated from working by sickness, would he not receive relief by which he might maintain himself and his family?—Certainly.

9816. You are in the habit of going about among the villages, do you find the poor people keeping pigs very frequently?—Yes, many of them do keep pigs; every body that can, does, there is no doubt of that.

9817. Can most of them?—Many of them can.

9818. Have you ever observed, that with those who do keep pigs it makes an apparent difference in their condition?—I generally observe, that those who do keep pigs are the best characters; they are the most steady people, and are generally better off.

9819. Are they in the habit of eating the pigs themselves?—No doubt of it.

9820. Do you believe that they keep the pigs, not for the purpose of eating them or of selling them with a view to profit, but for the purpose of the manure which the pigs make?—I do not believe it; they keep it for the purpose of deriving a profit from selling it whole, or killing it and selling it in joints, and perhaps keeping a little themselves; a man would never trouble himself to keep a pig just for the sake of its manure.

9821. Turn to 8458, with regard to Sharpe's daughter, who is deaf and dumb; is she receiving relief?—She is not.

9822. What are the circumstances of Thomas Sharpe's daughter?—I do not happen to know the man himself at all, though he lives in the same place with myself.

9823. To Mr. *Pease.*] Do you know this case of Sharpe's daughter?—I do.

9824. Does she receive relief from the Woburn Union?—Yes.

9825. To what amount?—One loaf is allowed; the man was in constant work.

9826. Do you know any thing of the circumstances of the family?—I do; there are three daughters; one of them is grown up, 30 years of age, and out at service; both of the others have bastard children; I do not know whether the man is in work at the present time; but he was in regular work and forfeited his place owing to his own irregularity; I had the information from himself on Saturday.

9827. To Mr. *Marshall.*] Turn to 8535; the case of John Sharpe; do you know any thing of that case?—I thought that was the person that the question alluded to just now; this is a Sharpe of Ampthill.

9828. Do you know him?—I do not know any thing of this man, although he lives in the same parish with myself, and therefore I should suppose that he is a man that is in work, or I should otherwise have had some application for relief.

9829. As far as your observation goes, have those persons who have gone into the workhouse been obliged to give up their houses and break up their whole establishments and sell their furniture?—No, I think not; usually, if they do go into the workhouse (there have not been many married persons who have gone in) they have left their furniture in charge of some other person.

9830. You are quite confident that there is no resolution or practice of the board of guardians, requiring those parties to sell their furniture before they go into the workhouse?—That I am certain of.

9831. And you believe that when they go into the workhouse, they leave their furniture in the charge of some of their friends?—Yes, that is what I have heard.

9832. Is it in Ampthill the custom sometimes to order the husband into the workhouse and to leave the family out of it?—It is a practice that has been recently adopted, in order that the family might be relieved without the man participating in the benefit of it.

9833. What have been the effects of that practice?—We have not had time to try the effects; I do not know that any man has accepted that offer.

9834. The intention was that the man should be taken into the workhouse, and the family relieved out of it?—Yes.

9835. Was that done with the view to doing away with the necessity of breaking up their establishments?—That was the view the guardians had, if I understood them rightly.

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9836. It was stated to the Committee, that grocers and shoemakers and bakers complain of this law; perhaps their profits are in some degree interfered with by the operation of the law?—I have not been to Ampthill since the assertion was made, so that I could make any inquiries upon the subject; but I have not heard any complaints of the same sort, and I have had much more opportunities of conversing with those people than many have.

9837. A good deal of relief is given in kind, in Ampthill?—Yes.

9838. A certain amount is given in the workhouse?—Yes.

9839. All that relief which is given in the workhouse, or in kind, is supplied by public contract, is it not?—It is.

9840. Therefore, the whole of the relief, whether in clothing or in bread, or in other provisions which is provided for by public contract, may interfere very likely with the profits of particular tradesmen?—No doubt of it; with the small tradesmen in particular.

9841. You do not think it therefore unnatural, that those persons suffering in their custom, should complain of the alteration in the law?—Certainly not.

9842. The bread, and the other things provided by public contract, are provided at a cheaper rate than when bought at a shop?—Yes; and much cheaper than they used to be.

9843. Therefore, if relief in kind is given to a family, bread being ordered for instance, the family derive more advantage from that bread than they would have done from the former amount of relief, which was provided for them, if they purchased it themselves?—Generally speaking, they do.

9844. What do you observe to be the difference in the price of bread which is bought by public contract, and that which is bought at the shops?—About a penny a loaf.

9845. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Do the guardians order relief according to the value of money, or by one loaf or two loaves?—According to the value of money, that is, if they were to order 1 *s.* 6 *d.* it would be three 4 lb. loaves; and if the loaves were rather dearer than that, the person would have to pay the difference 1½ *d.*; if, on the contrary, it was less, they would receive change from the baker.

9846. The order would be so much money in bread?—Yes.

9847. *Chairman.*] Do you consider this practice of giving relief in bread advantageous to the paupers?—I do.

9848. Do you consider the family more certain to receive the relief, when it is given in that way, than they formerly were?—Yes.

9849. When relief was given in money, do you not know that the labourers were in the habit of spending some of it in drink?—Yes; and that brings a case to my mind which is in point, of a person of the name of Joseph Lingar, who is the first name on the table of 48 labourers; he came to my house, and the man's distress appeared such, the tears ran down his face when he told me that his family had no bread in the house; I gave him an order for bread, to the amount of 1 *s.* 9 *d.*, and also money to the amount of 1 *s.* 9 *d.*, in consequence of some tale that he told me about his distress; he went no further than from my house to the first public-house before he went in, and had two pints of ale out of the 1 *s.* 9 *d.* that I gave him; and from that time to the present I have never given one farthing in money.

9850. You are precluded from doing so?—Yes; but in consequence of some tale the man told me I stretched a point in that instance, and gave him 1 *s.* 9 *d.*; but from that time to this I have never done so, and never will do so again.

9851. It appears in the case of Samuel Odell, by an entry made in the application-book, that he had been out of work only four days, at the time the application was made to the board?—If it is so entered, that was the case; and another thing is, he is a man that is not out of work, when he may be stated to be out of work; he gathers rushes for the purpose of the rush-candles, and he makes as much money during that rush season as some people make in the whole year, almost; he makes a great deal of money, much more than persons would imagine.

9852. Have you seen the list, headed "Comparative Rate," showing the condition of 48 men, belonging to the parish of Westoning, in the Ampthill Union, whose employment has been irregular in the years 1834 and 1837?—I have that list.

9853. Have you any observations to make upon any of the entries in that list?—The list having been given to me only yesterday, I have not had an opportunity of going into it so carefully as I should wish, nor have I the means of checking it as I should have if I was down in the country, because many of those people are not in

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in my description-book; but those that are I have looked over, and I have a few observations to make.

9854. Will you make any observations you may wish?—The first name I wish to observe upon is Peter Bonner; the earnings of this man's family are stated to be 10*l.* 8*s.* in the year 1837; I will not revert to the earnings of 1834, because that was before my time, and I cannot enter into it. Now, I observe, there is a daughter, Eliza, 20 years of age, and a daughter Ann, 17 years of age; I am quite prepared to say that they can earn 4*s.* a week, at least, each, and when I say 4*s.* I think I only go up to two-thirds of their capabilities; his wife, I consider, would be able to earn 2*s.*, that is allowing her some time to do for her family; the girl of 14 would be able to earn 3*s.*; the girl Ellen, 12 years of age, would be able to earn 2*s.*, and the girl of 10 would be able to earn 1*s.*

9855. What do you consider their total earnings might be?—Sixteen shillings a week, which would be four times the amount stated.

9856. That would make 41*l.* 12*s.* instead of 10*l.* 8*s.*?—Yes.

9857. Mr. *Miles.*] At the present price of plait?—Yes.

9858. *Chairman.*] Do you believe that to be a true statement of the earnings of that family?—Yes, and I am prepared to take my stand upon that case alone. I wish, before I leave that case, to observe that this man's annual earnings are stated to be 6*l.* 10*s.*; am I to understand from that, that the man only earns 6*l.* 10*s.* in the course of the year, because he earned 8*l.* 10*s.*, between himself and his father, in seven weeks of that period, and received 4*s.* parish relief; therefore he would have had 4*l.* 5*s.* out of that.

9859. It is stated to be the amount of the earnings of the labourer at his employment, and therefore it would not include parish pay?—He would have received 4*l.* 5*s.*; and afterwards he assisted his father in setting wheat, and he had 5*l.* 2*s.* there, which makes 9*l.* 7*s.*

9860. For how long a time?—Seven weeks; and nearly the whole of the remainder of the time, except when he was receiving parish relief, he was working at the railroad; what his earnings were there I am not prepared to say, but I should think not less than 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; and, therefore, 6*l.* 10*s.* constitutes a small portion of his earnings for the year. Before I go into the case of another, I would observe, that, although they have given credit for 2*l.* for the man's extra work for harvest, they make no mention of hay-time; the major part of the people of that parish go up the country and earn as much in hay-time as they do in harvest, and those who do not, always earn extra money in the parish during hay-time; if they did not, they would not remain there.

9861. Lord *Howick.*] Is the statement which you have now made of Peter Bonner's earnings, the account received from himself, of what he earned, at the time you were investigating the applications for relief?—No, it is not; this has come out in the course of the investigation.

9862. How do you know the sum that he earned in seven weeks, and the nature of his employment?—This is the bill when he was working for Mr. Gibbons, at turnip-hoeing, that has been handed in by Mr. Gibbons to Mr. Pearce; and this is the bill for the seven weeks, when they earned 8*l.* 10*s.* between them at turnip-hoeing.

9863. That information is derived from the statement of the persons who paid those wages?—Yes.

9864. *Chairman.*] That is with regard to the turnip-hoeing?—Yes; with regard to the wheat-setting, that has already been given in evidence before this Committee, as regards Samuel Bonner, who earned as between himself and his son; Peter Bonner is the son of the said Samuel.

9865. With reference to whose earnings we have had a statement and an account from the farmer who employed him?—Yes.

9866. Is there any other case that you wish to observe upon?—William Odell; his earnings are stated at 10*l.* 8*s.*; his wife is 39 years of age, an able-bodied woman, and a daughter, 16; according to their own showing, they earn between them, allowing the woman time to do for her family, but 3*s.* 9*d.* a week; but Mary, who is 14 years of age, two years younger than that, earns 3*s.* 10½*d.* a week.

9867. How do you know that?—That has been stated by herself to a gentleman who is present, Mr. Pearce.

9868. That is with regard to the child of 14?—Yes; then there is a girl 11, who earns 3*s.* 9*d.*; that has been stated by the mother to Mr. Pearce; and the

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girl who is only 9, threepence a week; I take their own statement for it, and I make their earnings 11*s.* 7½*d.* a week, instead of 4*s.*

9869. That is of the three youngest children?—Yes.

George Pearce, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

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9870. CAN you speak to this case of Odell?—Yes.

9871. Will you give the Committee any information of the actual earnings of this family?—This I received by word of mouth from Mrs. Odell, as to the earnings of the family, the wife of the man; she acknowledges that herself and her daughter earn 3*s.* 9*d.* together; they assist each other in household work, and plait together, and sell their plait together; Mary, the second daughter, aged 14, receives for her plait 3*s.* 10½*d.*; Lucy, 11, her plait produces 3*s.* 9*d.*; Sally, aged 8, clears 3*d.*; this one child I have noted goes to school, and the straw and the schooling are deducted, and it leaves 3*d.*; there are three younger children from whom there are no earnings.

9872. Are those earnings clear earnings?—They are, after deducting the value of the straw.

9873. That information you had from the woman herself?—Yes.

9874. Lord *Howick*.] What does that make the total?—Taking the man's earnings at 8*s.*, (but at that time he was earning at the rate of 12*s.* a week; he has a place of 8*s.* a week always to fall back upon,) and adding the earnings of the family, gives the total 19*s.* 7½*d.*, the acknowledged earnings of the man and family; but at the time the statement was made he was employed by my brother at 12*s.*; he has left him to go to better work; we presume that it was so; my brother would have continued him on, but he wished to go; it might have been a more permanent job; I cannot say.

9875. Supposing what he states to be correct, and that he receives higher wages in harvest and hay-making, what do you imagine the whole income of the family to amount to?—Taking 8*s.* as the average, and adding the difference in the value of the work in hay-time and harvest, it would not make a less difference than 50*s.*; that would make 20*s.* 6*d.* per week.

9876. Twenty shillings and sixpence, as the average income of the family, the whole year round?—This is not a satisfactory statement of earnings, inasmuch as I believe the income to be greater than the statement that I have received; it is known that the children are exceedingly well dressed; and this man, moreover, has advantages which you are not aware of; he occupies a certain allotment for which he pays a rent; he has a large piece of garden-ground attached to his cottage; this is one of the three cases that has been mentioned; but when we speak to the men, they say that they cannot tell what their earnings were in 1834, and that no inquiry has ever been made into their respective family earnings.

9877. *Chairman*.] Have you seen the woman?—Yes, I have; she made this declaration to me.

9878. The whole of this statement with regard to the earnings has been made by the wife of the man, or you know it from the employer?—The man's employer confirms it, and the woman made the statement.

9879. That gives an income of 52*l.* a year?—Yes.

9880. The income stated here of the man and his family, including hay-time and harvest, is 28*l.* a year?—I am not aware what the amount is.

9881. You believe the statement of 28*l.* a year for the earnings of this man and his family to be at variance with truth?—Of course it is, if the statement which I gave in is correct; when I spoke to the man, and asked him whether he was in distress, he said, "Oh, no; I have nothing to complain of, and what is all this hubbub about?" hearing that some statement he had made had been reported here. I would add, that this man bears a good character, and all the family; he pays 3*s.* 2*d.* a quarter to a medical club for himself and family; he pays 1*s.* a month to a benefit club, 1*s.* a month to a clothing club for himself and his wife, and 2*d.* a week to the same club for two of his children; he has not lost a day's work, except for his own pleasure, during the past year; his rent is 3*l.* a year; he pays for the garden allotment which he occupies in addition 4*s.*, that is in the open field.

9882. Lord *Howick*.] Do you believe that man's situation at present to be less good in any respect than it was before the new law?—I should imagine it to be greatly improved, looking at the earnings of the family; he has lost the head-money, and I do not consider that the head-money was any advantage to the family, knowing

knowing how it was disposed of, that it was principally employed in drink in Westoning.

9883. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You speak of a certain allotment he occupies; that in all probability is some advantage to him?—Yes, or he would not continue that.

9884. And that you have not included in your valuation?—No; there is another of the three cases which I can speak to; in fact, all three: I called upon Benjamin Cox, of Westoning, he has a wife and seven children; his own earnings are 9*s.* a week; he occasionally works by the great, and earns more; he has a son John, 21 years of age, earning 7*s.* a week; his daughter, Elizabeth, 17 years; I could not learn her earnings, but she pays for her lodging 2*s.*; Benjamin, 13 years, earns 2*s.* 6*d.*, and drives the plough; William, 11, only acknowledged to 6*d.*; he is said not to be well, and he goes to school, therefore the schooling and the straws are deducted; there are three younger children, for whom there are no earnings; we must presume greater earnings, for Elizabeth was reluctant to tell me what her earnings were; but she is above the age of 16, but acknowledges that she pays 2*s.*; but presuming that she earns 5*s.*, which does not exceed the average earnings of young women of her years, it would make a total of 24*s.* for the earnings of himself and his family.

9885. From what do you derive that information?—From the statement of the man and his wife, whom I have seen and examined personally.

9886. Is that the man who appears upon this list, of 48 labourers, and whose total income in 1837, including himself and his family, is said to be 34*l.* 4*s.*?—I am not aware of that statement, but it is one of the three cases of Benjamin Cox, Odell and Carter; this man's rent is 3*l.* a year.

9887. Have you included in the account of the man's earnings, and his family, what he can earn at harvest and hay-time?—I have not.

9888. Should you think it proper to add something for harvest and hay-time?—I should think it proper to add at least 50*s.*, independently of the value of the gleanings of the family.

9889. Take the advantage of the harvest to be the same that it is stated to be in this list, which is 40*s.* and add that to 24*s.* per week?—The harvest and hay-time would make 50*s.*

9890. Add the 50*s.* to the other particulars that you have given, and tell the Committee what the annual income would be?—It would be nearly 25*s.* weekly.

9891. That is what the income of that family would amount to, from the statement derived from your personal inquiries?—With the exception of Elizabeth; I could not learn her earnings; but it was stated that she paid 2*s.* for her lodging, and John paid 3*s.* 6*d.*; but his earnings were 7*s.* weekly; but this man has a further advantage in the occupation of some garden-ground; he pays 3*l.* a year rent for his cottage, and 13*s.* a year for an allotment of garden-ground.

9892. What do you make the annual income derived from that to be?—I would rather not attach any value to that, but leave it as matter of inference.

9893. Then, according to that statement, the annual income of that family would appear to be 65*l.*?—Yes.

9894. The annual income in this table is stated to be 33*l.* 4*s.*?—Mine is only at the present time; I did not take a retrospective view at all.

9895. Speaking of the year 1837; should you suppose that this man's circumstances in the year 1837 differed materially from what they are now?—Benjamin Cox informed me that he had not been out of work during the past year, therefore I may presume his situation to have been as good; only I take the straw-plaiting to be a shade better this year; he declared to me that he had nothing to complain of; that was his declaration to me.

9896. Can you give the Committee information upon any other case?—John Carter, this man, three or four years ago, was in the employment of Colonel Seymour, the late serjeant-at-arms; he was seen or heard by the Colonel treating a horse with extreme cruelty; in consequence his whip was taken from him; he was the carter; he was indignant at this, and left his employment, where he had 10*s.* 6*d.* weekly, his hay-time and harvest, and his cottage rent-free; he threw himself upon the parish of Westoning, and without any inquiry whatever; he was put immediately into the gravel-pit.

9897. Lord *Howick.*] In what year was this?—The Colonel told me it was three or four years back, and he was very anxious this should be known.

9898. *Chairman.*] Do you know any thing with respect to his income?—His employer told me that he was at this time paying him 9*s.* or 10*s.* weekly for task-work;

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task-work; he worked by the great; he has a child who may be presumed to earn at least 1*s.* a week; he would have additional wages in hay-time and harvest, I take for granted; there is a little circumstance I would mention about them to show that there is no destitution. The clergyman's lady, in her round of visits, called at this man's cottage, and the woman was preparing a dress for one of her children, and it was remarked by this lady that it was made very full, two or three yards more than was necessary; at least that quantity; upon which it was remarked by the woman, "It is usual to wear those dresses now;" showing her sense of the fashion: as it was mentioned as a case of destitution, I thought it right to mention this circumstance.

9899. Have you any other case to observe upon?—John Knight has been spoken of as a case of destitution, a man who travels with a basket; his wife is a washerwoman and charwoman; she earns 2*s.* a week, but she might be out every day, but they object to employing her, from having been saucy, at two or three places; she earns 2*s.* a week generally; this is information only; this I do not derive from the family.

9900. From whom did you derive it; from any body that had an opportunity of knowing?—From a farmer's wife, who employs her in washing.

9901. What did she tell you?—That she earns 2*s.* a week; she stated more but I take it at 2*s.* a week; the man had good summer work; this was the information of the farmer, who could speak to his particular situation, a rate-payer of the parish; he is supposed to have earned about 10*s.* or 12*s.* a week.

9902. For how long a time?—He was there during harvest and for some time afterwards; was occasionally employed by Mr. Sears, the principal rate-payer in Westoning, at 8*s.* a week; was with him lately three weeks together; besides his money he had milk and small-beer daily; he will shortly return to him to supply his shepherd's place, which shepherd always goes out during shearing time; he will then, in addition to his weekly wages of 8*s.* a week, get his victuals on Sunday and his beer and milk daily.

9903. Do you know any thing of the family?—I believe there is no child dependent upon him; this was a man who was said to derive assistance from his children who were in place.

9904. Mr. *Miles.*] When the woman goes out to wash in a farmer's family, do you know whether she gets her victuals?—It is the custom, I should not doubt it; I called at John Knight's cottage when this man was gone to the board; it was the Thursday week when he went; his dinner was placed before the fire; I was rather curious to know what it could consist of, and it was meat pudding, exceedingly good fare.

9905. *Chairman.*] There was no appearance of distress?—All the cottages are most wretched; you cannot conceive the apparent misery that there is in them; but it is such an exceedingly depraved parish; a great portion of the labouring men are addicted to drinking, arising, as I imagine, from the former system.

9906. In what respect, do you think, that operated as an injury upon the character of the people?—Very little of what was given in the way of relief was carried home to their families, it was principally spent in drink; the late overseer gave me an instance of it the other day, that the men were so impatient to get to the public-house, that they would even get drunk before they received their pay on the Saturday night, and would come to him quite intoxicated.

9907. Do you observe any change in that parish, since the introduction of the law?—I think a very decided change.

9908. In what respects?—I do not see masses of 70 and 80 congregated together for purposes of mischief; they were the terror and annoyance of the neighbourhood.

9909. Is there more employment in the parish?—A great deal more; as a proof, I suppose there are now about 100 labourers, including lads above 15 years of age; there are not more than 20, I imagine, employed out of the parish, and I suppose the 80 remaining are absorbed by employment afforded by the farmers.

9910. You live near that parish, do you?—About a mile and a half from it.

9911. Your brother is the clergyman of that parish?—Yes, in addition to which I am a rate-payer in the parish.

9912. Do you observe, in any communication you have with the farmers, or observation of your own, that there is more employment given by the farmers now?—It is the general observation of the farmers.

9913. Do you think the men are in a better condition?—Infinitely better.

9914. Do you think their families are better off?—I do not know, the propensity to drink is still so strong; but it is acknowledged by the wives themselves that more of their earnings are taken home than was formerly the case.

9915. Have you made any observation with regard to the bedding of the people in that neighbourhood?—I heard the statement, that many of the poor in Bedfordshire lie upon loose straw, scattered down as for cattle; I was induced to inquire whether that was the condition of any of the poor in Westoning, that having been said to be the worst parish in the county; I went to one cottage, where the person inhabiting it was said to be worse off than any other, and I examined the bedding; he was a bed-ridden man, 90 years of age; the man was lying upon a straw mattress, but he had a good blanket, lying between a good pair of sheets and a coverlet; but he was living in a place upon sufferance, and a more miserable habitation you cannot imagine.

9916. Have you ever observed in other cottages what is the condition of the bedding, or have you received any information upon that subject?—I hear that that is not the state of the poor generally, as to their bedding in Westoning, that they lie upon loose straw; that there is not an instance of it; they principally lie upon stump bedsteads and upon straw mattresses. With respect to Westoning, the system of relief, or rather the rule of relief there formerly, was the number of the family; it was not the necessities of the family.

9917. Mr. *Miles.*] Was this old man you have just spoken of in better circumstances in earlier life?—He has always been known as a notorious drunkard; his son is a farmer, living in the same parish but occupying a small quantity of land; he has brought up, I believe, a large family; he contributes towards his father's support, but perhaps not adequately; I wish to mention one circumstance, showing the fear the farmers stood in of the people when congregated together in the way in which they used to be. Upon one occasion I saw a party of about 70 people assembled together; they were placed in a particular situation by the overseer, and not allowed to leave that spot; this was in 1834. I saw a party of about 10 or 12 of those people, a detachment, taking down a tree, and seeing the occupier of the land not far off, I rode up to him and told him what was going forward, and asked if what they were doing had his sanction; he said, "No." I said, "You will take some steps to prevent this;" "O no," he said, he dare not go amongst them; his answer was, that "it was as much as his life was worth." This was the principal rate-payer in the parish.

9918. Did you consider that system of intimidation to be at all general?—I can give another instance of it; I saw some labourers cutting underwood, and I gave information in that case to the person who occupied the land where it was growing; and I offered to be an evidence in the case; but he declined prosecuting.

9919. What was his reason for declining to prosecute?—There is such a vindictive spirit that their ploughs are frequently cut in two, and as a proof of it, I prosecuted a Westoning man upon one occasion, and I had several hundred small trees cut down afterwards; I do not charge any body with it, but it followed soon afterwards.

9920. Do you think the disposition of the people, with respect to their general habits, is altered for the better?—Immensely so.

9921. You observe it?—It is most striking; I put a string of queries to some of the farmers in Westoning, which queries I had drawn up after reading the evidence which had been given before the Committee, and I got answers to those queries, and they were submitted to most of the farmers, and they all concurred in the truth of those answers.

9922. What was the nature of those queries; have you got them?—I have them at hand.

9923. From whom did you get those answers?—From the different farmers in Westoning; those are different answers to queries which I myself drew out, upon reading the evidence.

9924. Lord *Howick.*] What you have put down as answers to the queries are not the actual words used by any particular farmer, but the substance of the opinions given by farmers in answer to the particular query?—Yes.

9925. *Chairman.*] Will you be so good as to read the queries and the answers?—"Is there any improvement in wages since 1834?—Yes, about 1*s.* per week in day-work; task-work much the same, except bean-setting, which has fallen about 6*d.* a bushel. State prices of the different sorts of task-work in Westoning?—Hedging 6*d.* to 8*d.* per pole; threshing wheat 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 10*d.* per load of five bushels, and in proportion for other corn." The general remark has been made

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that at those wages more can be earned than at 2*s.* formerly, inasmuch as the wheat yields better than it did. "Hoeing 4*s.* to 6*s.* per acre, according to crop and soil; mowing 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* per acre, with beer; bean-setting 1*s.* 6*d.* per bushel; draining 4*s.* to 5*s.* per score, according to depth and soil. State the average gleanings of a family in harvest?—A woman and three children, the youngest being eight years old, may get from three to five bushels, according to the season. State the number of unemployed labourers in Westoning, in the winter of 1834 and in 1837?—In 1834, 70 upon an average, including lads above 14 years old; in 1837 and 1838, not exceeding 14, except one week in the depth of last winter, when 40 were out of work. Are more pigs kept in the parish than formerly?—No, fewer at present, in consequence of the potatoes being injured by the frost, &c. State whether the poor generally in the parish are improved in their condition and habits since 1834?—They are somewhat improved in their moral condition; there is less beer drunk, certainly, and there are not such open scenes of intoxication as formerly, the means of the labourers being less as regards parish relief, the greater part of which used to be spent at the public-house; there is but one opinion in the parish as to the labourers being more industrious, more satisfied with their work, more eager to obtain it, and more desirous to keep their places; they also take more of their earnings home to their families; if the improvement in the labourers be not so great as might have been expected, it deserves remark, that the labourers in this parish have long been distinguished for drunkenness and improvidence; the public-houses there are under no sort of regulation."

9926. Are the beer-shops less numerous than they were?—I believe there is the same number in Westoning; there is a small diminution in my own parish; there is one less.

9927. Do you believe less beer to be drunk at the beer-houses than formerly?—I think there is less, decidedly; and there is less intoxication generally, I should say.

9928. Will you read the other queries and the answers?—"What is the usual material of the beds used by the poor in Westoning, and how are they provided generally in that respect?—Straw mattresses, generally; sometimes flock, and, occasionally, feathers. There is no instance of straw being loosely littered down for the people to lie on, as for cattle?—In this parish, as elsewhere, the poor are not well supplied with bedding, but bedsteads are generally used. State the number of labourers living in, but employed out of the parish, last winter, on the railroad or elsewhere?—About 25, upon an average. Have the poor been assessed to the poor-rate since 1834?—The poor were newly assessed to the rate in 1836, but relieved again in 1837; they only paid two or three rates. Is employment increased in Westoning since 1834?—Yes, very considerably; but not so much so in the parish as might have been expected, owing to the unsettled state of the property:" the principal property there has been frequently in the market, and an inclosure has been expected to take place shortly, which has deterred the farmers from making those improvements in their land which they otherwise would.

9929. Is it an open field?—Yes.

9930. Almost all the parish?—The larger proportion.

9931. Will you read the remainder of the queries?—"Do wages fall in the winter?—No alteration in wages of day-work either in the summer or winter, except at hay-time and harvest. Has bastardy increased since 1834?—Rather so; it has kept pace with the increase of population. Are marriages more frequent since 1834?—Yes, in 1832, 1833 and 1834 there were 16, and in the three following years 22, showing an increase of six. Has crime increased?—Except poaching, offences against the law are less frequent. Is there more assistance now than formerly given to poor relatives?—Yes, much more; and parish relief not being so accessible, the poor are more disposed to assist each other; the law being put in force now more strictly against richer relatives, or the knowledge that it may be so, has been the means of much additional relief being afforded. Is more done in the way of private charity for the poor in Westoning than before the new law was put in force?—Yes; the poor being thrown more upon their own resources has induced those connected with them to extend their bounty considerably."

9932. When the men of Westoning are thrown out of their usual employment, have they not resources in straw-plaiting?—Many of them can plait, and formerly when they were put into the gravel-pits many of the men there, perhaps one-

half

half of them, were engaged in straw-plaiting; you saw them at work for themselves.

9933. Whilst they professed to be working for the parish, and were receiving parish relief?—Yes, they were supposed to be entirely dependent upon the parish.

9934. Mr. *Freshfield.*] With the improved means you have described, on the part of the labourers, how do you account for the wretchedness of the cottages?—A great many of the cottages are occupied by the poor without any payment of rent, and they are living there upon sufferance; I would name the cottages lately engaged as the workhouse; they are too poor to be repaired; they are not worth repairing; and what are called the "Widows' Houses" are also in a most wretched condition.

9935. *Chairman.*] Are they alms-houses?—They are charity houses.

9936. Have you any statement to give in with respect to the earnings of children in the straw-plait?—I have.

[*The Witness delivered in the same*:—Vide *Appendix*, No. 3.]

9937. Mr. *Frehfield.*] Though the poor are in better circumstances, are the Committee to understand that their individual habits are not yet improved?—They are improving, and the parish is, in a moral point of view greatly, improved.

9938. *Chairman.*] Is the footing upon which the labourer stands towards the farmer who employs him, better or not than it was before the new law was introduced into Westoning?—I think much better.

9939. Do you think that that arises from much greater employment, and greater constancy of employment?—From both.

9940. Mr. *Miles.*] You have given an account of the ascertained earnings of three families in Westoning; have you made inquiry relative to the condition of other families, which are included in the 48 labourers and their families, in the list which has been put in?—I have; I believe George King is in that list; this tabular statement I may have an opportunity of examining hereafter, we have had no opportunity at all at present.

9941. You have not had sufficient time to make inquiries relative to the other cases?—I have not; I do not know whether George King be in the list; I have statements of other persons. John King is at work at Tingrith, at 10*s.* a week, and he has recently joined a benefit club since 1836; and 50 in the parish of Westoning, and upwards, have joined benefit clubs.

9942. *Chairman.*] Agricultural labourers?—Yes, many have joined medical and clothing clubs.

9943. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you think there would be any difficulty in getting an accurate statement of the present earnings of those families, if you had time?—No difficulty whatever.

9944. If this statement is false, there will be no difficulty in correcting it?—There would be, previous to 1838.

9945. None as to the present year?—There would be no difficulty as to the present year; but as to previous years I conceive there would be.

9946. Have you sufficient knowledge of the parish to be able to do it?—I could assist materially. In 1834 I think it is impossible to obtain any statement of the earnings of the labourers; two or three of them have told me themselves that they could give no account, the head-money and their earnings were so blended; in addition to which, some of them were occupying garden allotments, from which we may suppose there was a profit, and also plaiting, when they should have been at work for the parish.

9947. Have you any reason to believe that the majority of those cases differ in any very material point from those which you have put in as correcting this statement?—Not having applied myself to that, I cannot answer.

9948. Lord *Howick.*] You have given, from your own knowledge, a statement of the real earnings of some of the parties in this list; do you suppose that what you have given as the earnings of those three or four individuals, with whose circumstances you are acquainted, affords a fair specimen of what an industrious man, with a similar family, can earn in that part of the country?—I do think so.

9949. Mr. *Scrope.*] And the three cases, into which you have made particular inquiry, are the same cases of Cox, Odell and Carter, which were selected and brought forward by Mr. Turner, as offering a very fair criterion of the condition of the labourers in that parish?—Yes.

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9950. You were induced to pay attention to those three particular cases, in consequence of the special observations which were made upon them by Mr. Turner?—I was.

9951. Mr. *Fielden.*] You are well acquainted with the labourers in the parish of Westoning?—With a great many; I employ some of them, and live near.

9952. You have as good an opportunity of ascertaining what the wages of those labourers are, embraced in this table of 1834 and 1837, as perhaps any other individual?—Perhaps not so well as a resident occupier.

9953. Would you have any difficulty, obtaining assistance, in making a correct return, now that you have stated this to be incorrect?—Not as to 1834; the men state to me that they cannot give that account.

9954. Would there be any difficulty in making out a statement for 1837?—I do not think there would.

9955. There have been two tables put in, one containing a list of 48, another of 30 labourers; and there have been since tables put in, relating to six other parishes in the Union of Ampthill; could you look over those tables, and obtain assistance so as to enable you to correct those tables relative to those labourers?—I will do the best I can, if the Committee wish it.

9956. If you would be willing to do that, and give a correct statement, it would be satisfactory to the Committee to know it?—I should do it most conscientiously.

9957. Will you undertake to see that that is done?—I think it right to mention the circumstance that I am a rate-payer in the parish, but I have taken land there with a view of giving employment to the people, and I am now solicited to act as guardian of the parish.

9958. Are you aware that Mr. Turner, in giving in those tabular statements, has repeatedly stated to this Committee, that his object was to arrive at the truth; that if they were incorrect, he should be glad to see them corrected; that he had taken great pains to make them accurate, and that nobody would be more glad than himself to know the real state of the people, if those tables do not represent it?—I am aware of that.

9959. Can you amend those tables, and put them in a correct shape?—I will apply myself to it, if it is wished.

9960. Some doubts have been expressed in this Committee, whether Westoning was a fair parish to select, as one by which the labourers of that union could be described; is Westoning a parish where the labourers are in a worse or a better state than the labourers generally of the Ampthill Union?—They were perhaps in the worst condition of any labourers in the county, but they are now improving; but inasmuch as the principal property there is in such an unsettled state, I think that it can hardly be taken as a fair sample of the working of the Act.

9961. Would the selection of the labourers of any other parish show the income of the labourers to be greater or less than it would be shown to be by a correct statement of the labourers in the parish of Westoning?—As regards the wages, I think Westoning may be fair in that respect, but I mean that there is not that employment in the parish itself which there might be elsewhere, under different circumstances.

9962. What is the reason for that?—Because we have been expecting an inclosure there, and the principal property there has been in the market frequently.

9963. Are there other parishes in the Ampthill Union where employment is more general and the labourers are better off than they are in the parish of Westoning?—Not being resident within the union, I cannot speak particularly to the circumstances of each parish there; but there was a parish as deeply pauperised as Westoning, I mean Flitton, which is immensely improved. The improvement had commenced there before the new law was put in force, but I know of no parish where there is so striking a change, but arising out of the circumstance which Mr. Turner mentioned, the allotment system, letting land to poor people; that is a most valuable suggestion, which if acted upon would bring about, I think, an entire reformation.

9964. That is upon Earl de Grey's estate?—Yes.

9965. Have the families of the labourers the same means of obtaining as great an income in other parishes as they have in the Westoning parish?—No, I think not, throughout the union of Ampthill, inasmuch as the straw-plait is a local employment very often.

9966. Does the straw-plait afford an additional source of income, which many labourers do not possess, for their families?—In a greater degree in some parishes than in others; more or less it is in all; but in a limited degree in some of the parishes of the union, where the lace trade, for instance, prevails.

9967. Would that make any difference in the aggregate income of the labourers' families in Westoning, as compared with other parishes?—It would make their earnings greater, as compared with lace-making; I conceive the produce is almost double.

9968. The produce is double in straw-plaiting, as compared with lace-making?—That is my impression.

9969. Then if a parish were selected where plaiting does not prevail, but lace-making prevails, the incomes of the families would be less where the lace-making prevails, than where the straw-plaiting prevails?—I imagine so.

9970. On that account, is Westoning an unfair parish to select as a specimen of the labourers' earnings in the Ampthill Union?—I speak of the men's earnings; that the men are not so well employed there as in other parishes.

9971. But the incomes of their families are greater in Westoning; would the difference arising from the increased income of the families place the parish of Westoning as a fair specimen of the state of the labourers throughout the Ampthill Union?—As regards the earnings of the families, I should say they were in a superior situation to many of the parishes in the union; but, as regards the earnings of the men, inferior.

9972. Can you form any idea in your mind whether, taking the same number of labourers in another parish, the income of the labourer and the family together would be greater or less than in Westoning?—Inasmuch as in other parishes men would be more extensively employed by the great; the employment given in the other parishes might yield a greater income.

9973. Do the men employed by the great in nearly all the parishes obtain higher wages than those employed in day-work?—Certainly.

9974. What is the difference between the two?—So much depends upon the physical strength of the man, or his skill.

9975. But you, being a practical man, must know the difference that is generally made between the two descriptions of work?—There can be no doubt that a man will earn more by 2*s.* or 3*s.* a week in task-work.

9976. On the average?—I should say take it at 2*s.* 6*d.* more on the average.

9977. That is if a man was getting 9*s.* a week by the day, he would be able to get 11*s.* 6*d.* by task-work?—I will take the most recent that has been done in the country lately: a man setting beans by the day would be paid perhaps 1*s.* 6*d.*, but setting them by the bushel, which is the practice in Westoning, he would set a bushel and a half in the day, which would yield him 2*s.* 3*d.*, the difference would be 9*d.*

9978. Is it the practice of the labourers to get an increased income of 2*s.* 6*d.* a week on being employed on task-work as compared with the wages they receive weekly?—They get that generally I imagine when they are employed at task-work, but I would venture to say that 3*s.* might be taken as the average.

9979. Then a labourer employed at 9*s.* a week, put on task-work, would be able to obtain 12*s.* a week?—I should say so, if he was industrious.

9980. Mr. *Walker.*] Is that task-work pretty regular?—It varies in different parishes.

9981. How many weeks in the 52 weeks of the year may that be depended upon by the labourer?—It is difficult to say, the practice varies in different parishes, according to the will of the farmers or the inclination of the men.

9982. Would your experience lead you to think that a considerable portion of the year may be employed in task-work?—A large portion; there is the thrashing in the winter, and bean-setting in the spring, turnip-hoeing in the summer, and mowing.

9983. Can you state the average amount of weeks in which the labourers can obtain task-work?—I should think rather better than a third of a year.

9984. *Chairman.*] Is task-work more given now than it used to be?—I think much the same; I do not observe any variation.

9985. You do not observe that the farmers are more in the habit of employing labourers in task-work than formerly?—No, I am not aware that they are more, but my experience is very limited; I farmed myself considerably some years back.

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9986. Do you farm now?—On a small scale, 150 acres.

9987. Mr. *Scrope.*] Have you formed any general opinion as to the effect of the substitution of the new for the old law upon the physical condition of the labourers in your neighbourhood?—I should say that there is a general improvement in that respect; they look well, healthy; I should say their food is improved, as far as I can judge.

9988. So that, in spite of the very great loss that they have sustained of the income they derived from the parish under the old system, they are still not deteriorated in physical comfort?—On the contrary, improved.

9989. And that improvement is to be added to the great improvement you have already observed to have taken place in their moral character and habits?—It is; in the parish churches of the district, I would say Westoning and Harlington, which adjoin, you never see the people come ragged to church or looking in a miserable condition, as they were formerly; they are certainly better in appearance; they are more industrious, and are better conducted; there is less intoxication, and they are better labourers, more anxious to obtain work.

9990. So that you would consider that a real friend of the poor and the labouring classes has great reason to rejoice in the alteration of the system that has taken place?—Every farmer that I have spoken to about it has spoken of the change with gratitude.

9991. Is that the feeling of the clergymen and other persons who are independent of labour?—I cannot call to mind an exception.

9992. *Chairman.*] Is it your own opinion, very strongly?—Decidedly.

9993. In the course of your experience in carrying this law into execution, has any thing occurred to you which you can suggest as an improvement in the law?—I think it very desirable that the guardian representing a parish should have equal power with the overseer, to give relief in cases of emergency, such relief to be reported in like manner as that given by the overseer, to the board, and subject to the same limitation. I have found, in my experience, that the overseers frequently neglect their duty, and do not know their duty; and even with a knowledge of it they will not act up to it, and many of the poor suffer in consequence, and many overseers refuse even to act under the board of guardians; they do not like to be subject to the board of guardians.

APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

LIST of AGED and INFIRM PERSONS who have had their Weekly Allowances increased by the Board of Guardians of the *Ampthill* Union up to 31 December 1837.

	FROM		TO	
AMPTHILL:	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Jones, Alice	1	6	2	–
Ansell, Jane	1	6	2	–
CLOPHILL:				
Hine, Jane	2	–	2	6
Bedford, Susan	2	–	2	6
Bosworth, Mary	1	–	1	6
Parrell, Mary	2	–	2	6
Parrell, Sarah	2	–	2	6
Groom, Mary	2	–	2	6
Clark, Sarah	2	–	2	6
Tingey, John	2	–	2	6
Clare, Richard	2	–	2	6
CRANFIELD:				
Capel, Sarah	1	9	2	6
Odell, Susan	2	–	2	6
Harrison, William	2	–	3	6
FLITWICK:				
Beale, Ann	2	–	2	6
Groom, Rebecca	2	–	2	6
GRAVENHURST:				
Ray, Ann	1	6	2	–
HAWNES:				
Bass, George	4	–	5	–
Odell, George	3	–	4	–
Clark, Thomas	2	–	4	–
Walker, Mary	2	–	2	6
Parrish, Eliza	2	–	2	6
HOUGHTON:				
Grummett, William	4	–	5	–
LIDLINGTON:				
Lander, John	2	–	3	–
Taylor, William	2	–	2	6
Higgins, Hawick	2	–	2	6
Devereaux, Levi	2	–	2	6
Turner, William	1	6	2	–
MARSTON:				
Denton, Fanny	–	9	1	9
Smith, Thomas	2	–	2	6
Valentine, Joseph	4	–	5	–
French, Thomas	2	–	4	–
MAULDEN:				
Worker, John	2	–	2	6
Charles, John	2	6	4	–
Sibley, Michael	2	–	2	6
Smith, Samuel	2	–	2	6
Smith, Ann	2	–	2	6
Shotbolt, Sarah	2	–	2	6
Mossman, Elizabeth	2	–	2	6
SHITLINGTON:				
Francis, Susan	1	–	2	–
Hare, Elizabeth	8lb. bread		1	6
Jenkins, William	3	–	5	–
Clark, Mary	1	–	2	–
WESTONING:				
Higgs, Joseph	1	6	2	6

From the original Pauper Application-book of the Union.

FROM the CHAIRMAN'S MINUTE-BOOK of regular PAUPERS.

	FROM		TO	
AMPTHILL:	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Flecknoe, Margaret	1	6	2	6
Ansell, Jane	2	–	2	6
Jones, Alice	2	–	3	–
Wilson, Sarah	2	–	2	6
Marks, Robert	3	6	5	–
CLOPHILL:				
Willison, Thomas	3	6	4	–
Webb, John	2	–	2	6
CRANFIELD:				
Beard, William	4	6	5	–
Cox, Ann	2	3	2	6
Johnson, Susan	2	–	2	6
Page, Mary	2	3	2	6
Paine, Thomas	2	3	2	6
Sinfield, Mary	–	6	1	–
Bartram, Robert	4	–	4	6
Maddock, William	2	–	2	6
Norton, Sarah	1	3	2	–
Stapleton, Rebecca	1	–	2	–
White, Francis	3	–	4	–
Fountain, Sarah	1	9	2	–
Walters, Kezial	2	3	3	–
Watson, Mary	1	6	2	6
CRANFIELD—*continued.*				
Johnson, Mary	1	–	2	–
Odell, Susan	2	6	3	–
Odell, Elizabeth	2	6	3	–
Ames, Henry	4	–	5	–
Robinson, Elizabeth	2	–	2	6
FLITTON:				
Pettitt, Charlotte	1	6	2	6
FLITWICK:				
Holmes, William	2	6	3	–
Billington, Mary	2	–	2	6
GRAVENHURST:				
Simms, William	3	6	4	–
HAWNES:				
Barrett, Hannah	2	–	2	6
Roberts, Thomas	2	–	4	–
Clark, Thomas	4	–	5	–
Odell, George	4	–	5	–
Warren, Edmund	4	–	5	–
Ward, George	2	–	2	6
HIGHAM:				
Woodward, Samuel	4	–	5	–

Appendix, No. 2.

FROM the CHAIRMAN'S MINUTE-BOOK of regular PAUPERS—*continued.*

	FROM	TO
HOUGHTON:	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Finch, John	2 6	3 –
Elmer, Elizabeth	1 –	1 6
Sharp, Mary	1 6	2 6
LIDLINGTON:		
Potter, John	4 –	5 –
Hobbs, John	1 –	1 6
Henman, Mary	2 3	3 –
Morris, Sarah	2 –	2 6
Waller, Mary	2 3	3 –
Capon, John	4 6	5 –
Turner, William	2 –	2 6
Ashton, Sarah	2 3	2 6
Goodwin, Thomas	2 6	4 –
MARSTON:		
Denton, Fanny	1 6	2 –
Forfiet, Jane	1 6	2 6
Richardson, Thomas	1 6	2 –
Spendelow, John	1 –	2 6
Warner, Mary	1 6	2 –
Farr, John	2 6	3 –
Knight, John	2 –	2 6
Marriott, Elizabeth	2 3	3 –
Perkins, John	4 –	5 –
MAULDEN:		
Haines, Mary	2 –	2 6
Sinfield, Elizabeth	2 –	2 6
Edmonds, Elizabeth	2 6	5 –
Northwood, Elizabeth	2 –	2 6
MAULDEN—*continued.*		
Solsbury, Peter	4 –	5 –
Haines, Mary	2 6	3 –
MILBROOK:		
Pepper, William	2 6	3 6
Fox, Elizabeth	2 –	2 6
PULLOXHILL:		
Ward, Mary	2 –	2 6
Rutland, William	1 –	2 6
Potter, Ann	2 6	3 –
Rowell, Benjamin	2 6	3 –
Bosworth, Elizabeth	2 –	2 6
SHITLINGTON:		
Cobb, William	1 6	3 –
Ditto	3 –	4 –
Flint, John	3 –	5 –
Hipgrave, William	2 6	3 –
Twydell, Ann	1 –	1 6
Jepp, Sarah	1 6	2 6
STEPPINGLEY:		
Cook, William	3 –	4 –
Farmer, John	2 6	3 –
Line, Elizabeth	1 6	2 –
Scott, William	3 6	5 –
WESTONING:		
East, Daniel	5 –	6 –
Higgs, Joseph	2 6	3 6
Lingar, Mary	2 3	3 –
Ditto	3 –	4 –

Total 129 instances of raising the allowances of aged and infirm paupers, exclusive of those placed on an original allowance by the board of guardians.

Appendix, No. 2.

LIST of CLUBS established in Parishes within the *Ampthill* Union.

PARISH.	Whether Benefit or Medical Club.	When Established.	Number of Members.		
Ampthill	Benefit	Many years	83		
Ditto	ditto	1836	35		
Ditto	ditto	1837	40		
Maulden	ditto	1835	27	Under the medical superintendence of Mr. Hamilton.	
Ditto	ditto	1836	75		
Ditto	ditto	1837	25		
Houghton	ditto	1835	50		
Steppingley	Medical	A large one forming.			
Cranfield	Benefit	March 1834	49		
Marston	ditto	1836	140	Mr. Bull.	
Lidlington	ditto	1836	95		
Ditto	ditto	1837	40		
In the above three parishes	Medical	since 1835	600 upwards.		
Ampthill	Benefit	1835	60	– –	
Maulden	ditto	many years	94	3 clubs	
Silsoe	ditto	ditto	68	2 ditto	
Ditto	ditto	2 years	22	– –	
Flitton	ditto	many years	12	– –	
Pulloxhill	ditto	ditto	106	2 clubs	Mr. Chapman.
Greenfield, a hamlet of Flitton	ditto	1½ years	23	– –	
Westoning	ditto	1½ years	55	– –	
Flitwick	ditto	1 year	37	– –	
Steppingley	ditto	2 years	50	– –	
In the above parishes	Medical	2 years	300	– –	
Shitlington District	– – –	no account.			

774 men entered benefit clubs since Poor Law Amendment Act; 900 medical clubs.

Appendix, No. 3.

EARNINGS of CHILDREN of various Ages, employed in STRAW-PLAIT, Nine Hours in the Summer, from Eight to Six o'clock; less one Hour for Dinner. Appendix, No. 3.

				s.	*d.*			*s.*	*d.*		*s.*	*d.*
Child,	8 years	-	3 score, at	-	6	straws deducted,	-	3	-		1	3
Ditto,	10 ditto	-	5 ditto	-	8	ditto	-	7	-		2	9
Ditto,	12 ditto	-	6 ditto	-	9	ditto	-	1	-		3	9
Ditto,	15 ditto	-	6 ditto	-	10	ditto	-	1	-		4	-

Children of the last stated age may earn considerably more, according to the quality of the plait and proficiency of the child.

Winter Work, Eight Hours.

						s.	*d.*
Child,	8 years,	value of work	reduced	to		1	2
Ditto,	10 ditto,	- ditto	-	-	-	2	7
Ditto,	12 ditto,	- ditto	-	-	-	3	6
Ditto,	15 ditto,	- ditto	-	-	-	3	8

The above statement gives the estimated earnings of children in the workhouse at Woburn, deducting therefrom the time they are engaged with the schoolmaster, say three hours in the day, and their occasionally walking out for recreation.

Plait trade in 1832, bad.

Ditto - 1833, a shade better.

Ditto - 1838, improved, as compared with the years 1832 and 1833.

(signed) *Josh Cook,*

Master of the Woburn Workhouse.

THIRTIETH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
10 *May* 1838.

380.

430

THIRTY-FIRST

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
15 *May* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

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WITNESS.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Martis, 15° die Maii, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Scrope.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Hodges.	Mr. Walker.
Mr. Langdale.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *John Marshall*, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *John Marshall.*

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9994. Mr. *Fielden.*] YOU have been relieving officer for some part of the union of Ampthill ever since the formation of that union?—Not quite; the union was formed in April, and I became relieving officer in July 1835.

9995. Had you had any thing to do with the administration of parochial affairs before you became relieving officer of that union?—No, I never had.

9996. How long had you resided in Mary-le-bone?—Three years.

9997. You had nothing to do with the administration of the Poor Law?—I occasionally went, as a parishioner, to the vestry, but very little.

9998. You took no part in the administration of relief?—Not at all.

9999. You gave the Committee, on a former day, an account of your progress through the different parishes, for the purpose of paying the poor?—I did.

10000. And you stated the time occupied in that pursuit; did you state the distances from place to place?—I was not asked the distances; and if I had been asked, perhaps I could not state them correctly.

10001. You commence at Houghton, at nine o'clock on the Friday morning, and from Houghton you go to Hawnes; what is the distance between Houghton and Hawnes?—I should say three miles.

10002. Can you state the distance between Hawnes and Clophill?—I should think not a great deal more than two miles.

10003. What is the distance from Clophill to Gravenhurst?—About three miles.

10004. From Gravenhurst to Shitlington?—Two miles.

10005. From Shitlington to Higham Gobion, what is the distance?—About a mile and a half, or two miles.

10006. From Higham Gobion to Silsoe, what is the distance?—Two miles more.

10007. From Silsoe to Maulden, what is the distance?—Two miles and a half.

10008. What is the distance from Maulden to Ampthill?—One mile.

10009. What is the distance from Ampthill to Lidlington?—Three miles and a half, by the road.

10010. And from Lidlington to Marston?—Two miles.

10011. From Marston to Cranfield?—That is, I should think, three miles by the road; but there is a nearer way to go to it by the footpath.

10012. From Cranfield to Milbrook?—That is back again on the road to Ampthill; that is six miles nearly.

10013. From Milbrook to Ampthill?—That is a mile.

10014. What is the distance from Ampthill to Flitton?—Two miles; or two and a half, I should say.

10015. From Flitton to Pulloxhill?—About a mile.

10016. From Pulloxhill to Westoning?—Four miles.

10017. Westoning to Flitwick?—One mile.

10018. And from Flitwick to Steppingley?—Two miles.

 10019. What

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10019. What is the distance of Steppingley from Ampthill?—A mile and a half.

10020. How do you travel, when you take those rounds?—Sometimes on horseback, and sometimes in a gig.

10021. What is the method which you adopt of paying the poor; in money you take with you, or in kind?—Both in money I take with me, and in tickets for bread; so that I write the tickets there, or, in permanent cases, I take the tickets ready written; those that I have to pay there, I give them a ticket for bread, and the baker comes round after, and serves them with the bread, according to the ticket they may have.

10022. Then the ticket is in lieu of money; you do not pay them in money, but pay in tickets?—If it is an able-bodied person, under 60 years of age, they are to have half in kind; that is, if it is 3*s.*, I give them 1*s.* 6*d.* in money and a ticket for 1*s.* 6*d.*; it may not be that the bread they receive amounts to 1*s.* 6*d.*; in that case the baker gives them the change, not exceeding one halfpenny in 1*s.*, but if the bread is beyond 6*d.* a loaf, they pay the difference, two or three halfpence, whatever it may be.

10023. Those poor people purchase the bread from the baker in consequence of having received that ticket?—Yes.

10024. Do they pay for it in money?—No, I pay for it; the baker comes to me afterwards, and brings the tickets; I pay him and produce those tickets at the board.

10025. Do they receive a part of the payment in money?—Yes.

10026. What do they do with that?—They lay that out at their own option.

10027. Can they lay that out to purchase bread?—I am not aware; I should suppose the baker would have no objection to sell to them any further bread they might require.

10028. Are you always at those different places at the hour which you have stated in the evidence you have given?—That will depend upon circumstances; as a general rule I should say yes, but in the event of applications being made in parishes, it takes me some time to record those applications, and that may delay me some quarter of an hour or more, but I always start from home at the same time precisely; if there is any delay it will be in consequence of applications received in parishes that I go through, and which are not very numerous.

10029. Is an hour appointed for the poor to meet you at those different places?—Yes.

10030. And that is always to be the same time?—Yes; if there is any alteration I always let them know the week before; it happens sometimes, if I have any thing particular to do, but if I do not go round on the day specified, I invariably let them know the week before. In the winter time I start an hour later in the morning, and therefore it makes me an hour later all day.

10031. Do the poor people suffer any inconvenience from your being later than the hour appointed?—I should think not.

10032. You have stated that at some places they have to receive their relief in the streets, and in others in the porches of the churches?—Yes, I have; but in those places where I pay in the streets the village is very small, and none of them ever come out of their houses till they see me make my appearance in the village, wet or dry; and in those places where I pay in the church-porch they have a shelter, if they should happen to be there five minutes before.

10033. Do the poor that you relieve, then, all live in the villages to which you go?—They all live in the villages where I relieve them, whether they belong there or not; they may belong to other parishes, but they live in that village.

10034. Are there no cottages except in the villages in those different parishes?—Yes, but I do not call at people's cottages to pay them; they come to one spot for it.

10035. Have they not a distance to come to the villages where you pay them?—Not much; very little.

10036. In none of those parishes?—In none of them. In Shitlington and Cranfield, those large parishes, none would have more than a mile to come, or a mile and a quarter; and very few any distance at all, scarcely.

10037. If they have a mile and a quarter to come, is it not very inconvenient for them to wait for your arrival beyond the time that you usually are there?—I have never heard any murmuring on that score; if it is inconvenient to them, if they are ill and cannot come, I never object to send their money by a neighbour, provided I am satisfied that they have been sent for it.

10038. Then you do sometimes pay those people without seeing them themselves?—I do, sometimes; because there are some people too infirm to walk any considerable distance, and I do not see them, perhaps, every time, unless the weather is fine.

10039. You have stated that some of the places are unfit which you make use of for the payment of the poor in those different parishes; have you ever represented to the board those cases?—Yes, I have.

10040. Have they ever been taken into consideration by the board, that you are aware of?—They have, I believe, been taken into consideration; but the necessary steps have not been adopted to procure fit places for me to pay in.

10041. Do you know the number of poor that you relieve in those different parishes collectively?—I have stated the numbers in each parish.

10042. Has the number been pretty much the same ever since you commenced your duty of relieving officer?—No; I took that as the average number in the middle of 1837; it was the relief list of 1837 that I looked to; when I spoke of the average number, that would be the average number of the year, I should suppose, taking the middle of the year.

10043. Then, the estimate of the number which you have given in was made up in the middle of 1837?—Yes, it was.

10044. Are there more now than there were then, or fewer, in those parishes?—I think about the same number, perhaps fewer.

10045. Were there any increased number of applications during the late frost and storm?—Not as compared with other winters; there always are more applications in the winter than in the summer.

10046. As compared with the period when you made the estimate of the number you have given in, were there more or fewer?—There were more applications.

10047. During the storm there were more?—Yes.

10048. Did not that make it necessary that you should have more time to relieve those people?—If they were ordered relief, it required more time on those occasions; when the day is short, I usually make as much haste as I can round, in order not to be out after dark.

10049. What takes place when you and the poor people meet individually; have you any thing to say to them, or they any thing to say to you?—No, I have nothing to say to them beyond calling their names, and giving them their money; I know what they have to receive; if they have any thing to say to me they say it, and I give them an answer.

10050. It does not appear that you have much time to enter into conversation with them at all, from the statement which you have given in of the time occupied in each parish?—I have sufficient time to enter into all the conversation that I require to enter into with them.

10051. Are you aware of the number of seconds that you have allotted to each individual case on the average?—No, I have never thought of such a thing; I do not enter into those minute calculations; I am always prepared, night or day, to give an answer to every applicant that comes to me, and to enter into conversation as long as may be necessary.

10052. That is at your residence at Ampthill?—Or anywhere else; if it were necessary, I would stop in a parish till 12 o'clock at night, but it has never been necessary yet; I am not bound to get home at a certain hour.

10053. Have you ever found it necessary to stop an hour or two hours beyond the time you have allotted?—No; it could never take me two hours in any case of any description, because, if I find a case troublesome, I give it in charge to the overseer till arrangements can be made for it.

10054. What do you mean by "give it in charge to the overseer"?—If, for instance, sickness were to occur, I would give the overseer an order to purchase such things as might be required as soon as the doctor came, if the doctor ordered relief to be administered in kind.

10055. Does the overseer meet you at the place where you pay the poor?—Not often, but if I want him I know where to find him generally, unless he happens to be out of the way; and there are four parish officers; I can always find one of them.

10056. In your next round, when you had not a knowledge of the circumstances of the applicant, would you immediately go to the overseer?—No.

10057. What would you do?—I should take the case, and if I considered it needful that the case should be immediately relieved, if I considered the case to be one of urgent necessity, I should relieve it; if not, I should take down the application and lay it before the board.

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10058. What case would you lay before the overseer?—A case of illness, or an accident, where they appeared to be in want; I would tell him, if the doctor ordered any thing, immediately to furnish it, and to give me the bill, and I should lay the bill before the board.

10059. Then, has it been your practice to instruct the overseers to relieve the poor where they are in a state of want?—Yes.

10060. In the different parishes you have pursued that course?—Whenever I have had occasion to do so I have.

10061. Have the overseers followed your instructions?—They have, generally.

10062. Can you mention any cases where the overseers have attended to your instructions to relieve the poor?—That would take some time; but I could mention several cases in Marston, Shitlington and Cranfield, and in all other parishes that may require it, except in the parish of Ampthill, where I reside; there I never trouble the overseer.

10063. Then the overseer takes a part in relieving the poor in those different parishes, as well as yourself?—Yes.

10064. That is the practice that prevails, is it?—It is; he is bound to do so by the Act of Parliament.

10065. Whether bound or not bound, is that the practice?—That is the practice, as far as I have understood it.

10066. And in no case where the overseer gives relief does he find any difficulty in obtaining a reimbursement of the sum which he has given in relief?—No, not if it is legal.

10067. What is it that makes it legal or illegal?—If it is given in opposition to the Act of Parliament, of course it is illegal; if it is given in accordance with the Act, it is legal.

10068. Have you not some overseers in your union who can neither read nor write?—Yes.

10069. Then they are not able to know what the Act of Parliament is?—They are not.

10070. How do they come at the knowledge of the Act of Parliament, in order to know what they should do?—That I cannot tell; it is their business to know their duty, which they are appointed to do.

10071. But you do know that they are in the habit constantly of giving relief to the poor in the different parishes, as well as yourself?—Yes, I do know that.

10072. You would have no difficulty in bringing forward a great many cases where the overseers have relieved the poor?—Certainly.

10073. In consequence of instructions received from you?—I do not know whether in consequence of instructions received from me, or from a knowledge of their own duty; but I can bring forward cases in which they have relieved the poor.

10074. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you ever complained of any relief which the overseers have given in any instance?—No, I do not remember that I have.

10075. Are you quite sure?—No, I am not quite sure; but I do not remember that ever I did.

10076. Will you undertake to say that you have never complained of any relief that the overseers have given?—No, I would not undertake that; if the relief has been legal, I will undertake to say that I have never complained.

10077. In what cases have you had reason to imagine that they have administered relief illegally?—I only know the case in Steppingley, and that has been told me: a man of the name of Farmer applied to an overseer for relief, and he gave him 2*s.*; and on that case being mentioned to me by the overseer, I said that he must pay out of his own pocket. I am not aware that that was the case, or that it was mentioned to me by the overseer; but if it was, that would have been the answer I should give, because, in the first place, the man was living out of the union, and in the next place, the overseer relieved him in money, and not in kind, which he had no authority to do.

10078. Do you know under what authority he relieved him?—No; the man was a bricklayer, and whether he was out of work or sick I am not aware; but if he was able to come for relief, it could not be a case of such urgent necessity.

10079. Was it to the man, or some member of the family, that relief was given?—I do not remember the case being mentioned to me; the wife says that the case was mentioned to me; if it was, I do not recollect it.

10080. Did you report that case to the board?—I do not believe that the case was ever mentioned to me at all; and if it had been I should not have reported it to the board.

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10081. Mr. *Fielden.*] According to the time which you have given in as being occupied in relieving the poor, and according to the number of the poor which you have stated as receiving relief, I find there are 798 persons whom you relieve in 10 hours and 55 minutes, and that gives four-fifths of a minute to each person for the time of relief; is that the fact?—I cannot say; I have never made such a calculation, nor do I consider it necessary; I am not at all prepared to answer that.

10082. It is the fact that you do relieve the poor in the time you have stated in the different parishes to which you resort?—It is the fact that I relieve the poor on the days that I have stated, and in something near the hours that I have stated, as near as I can.

10083. And in the time you have stated?—Perhaps in the time, or thereabouts.

10084. What do you mean by thereabouts?—I mean, with reference to my former answer, that when I enter a parish I do not know exactly how long I may be detained; but at all other times, as I before stated, I leave my home at the regular hours, and I return as soon as I have got through the business.

10085. You have stated the time you leave Ampthill and the time that you get back to Ampthill; you have stated the distance you have to travel, and the number of persons you have to relieve, and the time occupied in relieving them; we may take what you have said upon that subject as being the truth, may we not?—As being the general rule.

10086. In the first instance, you had only 11 parishes under your administration?—I had.

10087. And the number was afterwards increased to the whole union of 19 parishes?—Yes.

10088. When did you commence to relieve the whole of the parishes?—In June 1836.

10089. You stated that there had been a great diminution in the number of paupers in those parishes during that period; you date the diminution in the number from the period of the completion of the workhouse?—There was a great diminution before that; but from the period of the completion of the workhouse there were, comparatively speaking, few out-door able paupers, except in cases of sickness.

10090. After the workhouse was completed, was an alteration made in the administration of relief?—Yes.

10091. What was that alteration?—Out-door relief was refused to the able-bodied man, unless he was sick.

10092. Had the poor become richer or poorer at that period, since the passing of the new law, or since your appointment?—That I cannot say; I was not aware of their circumstances; they could not become a great deal richer, I should think, in that time.

10093. Were there many whose relief was cut off at the period of the completion of the workhouse, who had been receiving it before, during the time you had been in those parishes?—Yes, a great number.

10094. Was there any inquiry made by you whether they were in a state such as that they could maintain themselves without parochial relief?—I had no inquiry to make upon the subject; I was not directed to make any inquiry, nor did I consider it my duty to make any inquiry; if they required relief they made application to me, and I had the direction of the board of guardians in those cases, unless I saw that any other relief was necessary, to give them an order to go into the union workhouse, and which order I acted upon.

10095. You invariably gave an order to go into the workhouse in those cases in which you had before given relief out of the workhouse to the able-bodied?—I never gave any more relief out of the workhouse than was absolutely necessary before, always keeping the Ampthill parish workhouse full; and it was only when there was no room there, that we gave the out-door relief.

10096. There was a reduction in the number relieved, you say, at the period of the completion of the workhouse?—Yes.

10097. That reduction was effected without any inquiry as to whether the poor were in a condition to maintain themselves or not?—Yes; we did not require them to maintain themselves; there was the workhouse ready for them.

10098. You offered them the workhouse, if they made any complaint?—If they came to me for relief, I offered them the workhouse.

 10099. What

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10099. What was there in the workhouse which deterred them from accepting relief, if they had been accustomed to receive relief out of the workhouse?—That I cannot say.

10100. Mr. *Baines.*] Did they refuse to accept the workhouse if they required relief?—Not generally; at that time many used to accept the order for the workhouse, and keep me a great deal employed in writing those orders, but afterwards never came into the workhouse, and not make their appearance.

10101. To what cause do you attribute that?—A dislike to the workhouse, a dislike to the regularity of the thing, which many of them have not been used to; those not in regular employ, they were not used to the regular habits which they would be subject to in the workhouse.

10102. *Chairman.*] A dislike to the restraint in the workhouse?—Yes, that would be so in a great measure.

10103. Mr. *Baines.*] Would it not arise from another cause, that they have found in themselves the means of support without going into the workhouse?—It did in many instances, I know, for when they could not get work in their own parish, which they were in the habit of looking for before, they went to other parishes, and to the railroad and other places, and they got into employment.

10104. Then the answer should have been that they refused the workhouse in some cases, because they did not like the restraint of the workhouse; and they refused it in other cases because they got employment and had not occasion for that sort of relief?—Yes, that is the substance of the answer.

10105. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did the constancy of employment increase with the completion of the workhouse?—Yes.

10106. You date from that period an increased quantity of employment for the labourers to perform?—I do, in the first instance, and, in the next, I date from that period a desire to obtain that employment, which they never had before.

10107. How do you know that they never had a desire to obtain employment before?—Because I could see it; from the time that the first brick of our union workhouse was raised to the very last, young fellows were going about with their hands in their pockets, and in their parishes; they came to me when they knew I could not give them an order for the workhouse; but from the moment the workhouse was opened half the applications ceased, I may say nearly all.

10108. On what day was the workhouse opened?—It was opened on the 22d of February or the 24th of February 1836.

10109. And the dispositions of the labourers to seek for employment, and the ability to acquire employment, took its date from that day?—No, I did not say that; I said nothing of their dispositions.

10110. Did not you say that there was a change in the habits of the people, from the period of the completion of the workhouse?—Yes, but I did not attribute that to their dispositions; I attributed that to the law.

10111. There was a difference in their willingness to obtain employment?—Their willingness to obtain employment rather than the restraint of the workhouse.

10112. And an increase of employment arising at the same time?—Yes; the farmers, knowing that the men had nothing else to depend upon, and that they were relieved in their rates, felt a greater disposition to employ the men than formerly.

10113. Then the farmers were operated upon by the workhouse, as well as the men?—Not by the workhouse, but by the law, they being relieved in their rates.

10114. Then the effects of the law became manifest by the completion of the workhouse?—They did, in some measure.

10115. In what measure, and how was it manifested?—I saw an evident return to industry on the part of the paupers before the workhouse was finished, inasmuch as the relief was administered to them, not as it had been under the old law, but according to actual necessity.

10116. Mr. *Barneby.*] Would not the cost of the maintenance of the paupers in the workhouse be much greater than if they had relief out of the workhouse?—I think it might.

10117. Was that a cause for the farmers finding increased employment for the men?—Not any cause.

10118. You do not think the farmers found work for them in preference to having them sent to the workhouse, in consequence of the increased amount of payment which would be necessary for their maintenance in the workhouse?—No, not at that time; because at that time when there was no workhouse they would have been relieved out of doors, but now the able-bodied who are relieved are relieved in the house.

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10119. My question relates to the time when the workhouse was completed, and when if they were relieved at all it would be in the workhouse; the cost of their maintenance in the workhouse being greater than the cost of their maintenance out of the workhouse, was that a reason for the farmers finding increased employment for the poor?—So far the workhouse operated upon the farmers.

10120. Therefore, in fact, the workhouse became a double test, one operating upon the labourers, because they did not wish to be kept within the walls of the workhouse, and the other operating upon the farmers, because they did not wish to have that extra payment for their maintenance?—Exactly so.

10121. Mr. *Fielden.*] In answer to question 9008, you stated that you never upon any one occasion refused to enter the name in the application-book, and, having entered it in the application-book, refused to allow the individual to appear before the board, supposing you have had time to make inquiry?—I say that still.

10122. Are you ever at a loss to have time to make inquiry; have you not always time to enter it in the application-book when application is made?—Certainly not; I never enter an application if I do not know something of the case; if I do not know the case, how can I go before the board of guardians, and advise them of the course to be pursued? they naturally suppose that I bring a case to them that I know something about; but if I do not know it, I tell the guardians at once, and they are not at all disposed, if I know nothing about it, to consider it; they leave the case in my hands, and I relieve it as a case of necessity till the following week, directing the persons to come on the following week, and by that time have an opportunity of making a further inquiry, then I go before the board and acquaint them with what I do know.

10123. But if a poor person applies to you for relief, do you invariably enter his name in some book for that purpose which you carry about with you?—I do.

10124. Have you on any occasion refused to enter the name of applicants in that book?—No, I never have.

10125. Have you now the book with you in which you enter it?—Not with me; I usually enter it in pencil, ever since the new forms have come up; I sew a few sheets together and enter it in pencil, and, after entering it in the regular application-book, rub it out with a piece of indian-rubber, and the same paper does again; I never supposed at that time that I should be called upon in three or four years' time to produce private memoranda which I had taken, and which are of no further value after I had entered them in the regular application-book; I have left that book in possession of the present relieving officer, who is doing my duty.

10126. Have you never on any occasion refused to enter the name of an applicant who came to you to seek relief?—I never have that I know of; I cannot call any such thing to my mind.

10127. Mr. *Baines.*] Have you the power to refuse any applicant permission to apply to the board?—Certainly not, nor have I ever sought to exercise it.

10128. It would appear from question 9008, as if you had the power to refuse an applicant permission to apply to the board; you have no such power?—I have no such power, nor have I ever sought to exercise it.

10129. Mr. *Fielden.*] You never on any occasion refused to enter the name in the application-book of any poor person who applies to you?—I have already stated that I never did.

10130. Have you ever on any occasion refused to let those who had made application go before the board?—No, unless after their case had been once decided.

10131. But a case might have been decided, and the circumstances of the applicant might subsequently have changed?—Then I should let them go before the board, if that could be made to appear to me.

10132. But that must be made out to your satisfaction before you would allow them to go before the board?—Certainly, because if I allowed them to go before the board, it is giving as much trouble to the board to hear them again, as bringing a case before them in the regular way; it is to save the board trouble they have given me that direction, not to let an application be made to them twice.

10133. Then you do undertake to refuse to let parties go before the board, unless you yourself are convinced there are some new circumstances in their case?—Certainly, that has very seldom been the case; but I have exercised that power.

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10134. Can you mention any cases in which you have exercised it?—I do not know that I can; Mr. Turner has cited one case, Sarah Billington; and I have already stated that Sarah Billington came there after the business of the board was over, and therefore I could not take her application; and she had already had it decided upon some five or six weeks before that.

10135. Mr. *Wakley.*] At what time do the persons attend in the morning who go to see the guardians?—At ten, for the purpose of having their application taken.

10136. Suppose you have seen an individual, and you have stated that it is of no use for that individual to apply to the board, and yet the individual does attend at the meeting day, what happens then?—I would take their application.

10137. You see her before she is admitted to the guardians?—Certainly.

10138. Suppose you should consider that she ought not to see the guardians, what do you do?—I have no power to consider any thing of the kind, at least I have power to consider, but I have no power to put that consideration into practice.

10139. *Chairman.*] You have no power to determine?—No.

10140. Mr. *Wakley.*] You have no power to prevent her seeing the guardians?—Certainly not.

10141. And you have not done so?—No.

10142. I find in the minute-book this—"that the relieving officers do inform paupers who intend to apply for relief at the weekly meetings of the board, that they must attend at the Ampthill workhouse, at nine o'clock in the morning, in order that their cases may be investigated before the commencement of the meeting of the board;" who investigates the case?—I do.

10143. Do you make a report on your investigation to the board of guardians?—Yes.

10144. Supposing your report is unfavourable to the application, what happens then?—My report is nothing; I have nothing to do but to enter the names and the rate of wages, and those things, for the support of their families; any other circumstances that I may want to know I ask the parties themselves, or ask where I can get information; perhaps I have asked, and know already, and I ask them to see whether they will tell me the truth; they come up to the board, and those columns are read over to the paupers in their presence, either by the clerk, if he is disengaged, or by myself; and the chairman and the board put such questions to the parties as they consider necessary; having done so, they tell the pauper he may retire; and when he is gone out they ask me what I know of the case, and I tell them what I know.

10145. Is your statement made in the presence of the pauper, or in the pauper's absence?—In the pauper's absence.

10146. So that if you have stated that which is not true, the pauper has not an opportunity of rebutting it?—He would have an opportunity of rebutting it, because when he comes back the board of guardians would tell him of it.

10147. Is that the case?—It is, if there is a doubt about it.

10148. So that the pauper's case is fully investigated in his presence?—It is, in the presence of the pauper.

10149. Do you mean to say, that on every occasion when you have made a statement against a pauper which has had the effect of preventing the pauper from obtaining relief, the individual has heard that statement repeated in his presence?—He has.

10150. In every instance?—I think in every instance he has been told such and such a thing has occurred, and if he has denied it they have inquired into it.

10151. Suppose a pauper has offered to call witnesses to prove that what you have stated was not correct, have the witnesses been heard?—No such thing has happened.

10152. You have not stated any thing but what was strictly correct?—I have not stated any thing but what I knew to be correct; because I have no local interests among them, and I can have no relations to serve, and therefore I do give them the best information I can.

10153. Is it fact, then, that all the paupers who go to the workhouse for the purpose of seeing the guardians on the day when the guardians assemble, are admitted into their presence?—Yes.

10154. *Chairman.*] Is there not this exception which you have already described, that in the instance of a pauper renewing an application after a short interval of time, when there has been no change of circumstances, the board has not been in the

the habit of seeing them again?—Yes, I have stated that; and I can make another exception, that many, after they have come and troubled me with the application, if the board keep them waiting rather longer than they please, do not wait, but go away without having a hearing.

10155. Mr. *Miles.*] In the case of Sarah Billington, had she been on the paupers' list previously?—She had.

10156. Was she a woman with a family?—No.

10157. What was her application to you on the board day?—She had applied once or twice, twice I believe, but I know once; she had applied for an increase of allowance from 1*s.* 6*d.*, and wishing to be raised higher; and she then had a hearing there, and stated to the board that she could not make much lace, that her eyes were bad, and the board refused to increase the allowance: they told me to ask Mr. Bull whether there was any thing the matter with her eyes; that is the surgeon who resides in the district where she is; I asked him, and he said, no, there was nothing more the matter with her eyes than with another woman's of 65 years of age; that she could make lace, with spectacles, he supposed.

10158. How long was this conversation with Mr. Bull before this application?—Three weeks.

10159. Do not you think it possible that in those three weeks something might have occurred by which she might require further assistance than the board had ordered?—Such a thing might have happened, but if it had I should have taken the application then; but she appeared when the business was over, and the board was rising.

10160. In reference to the application which Sarah Billington made, did you make a point between that time and the next meeting of the board of visiting her?—I did; I saw her.

10161. Did you find her condition in any way altered?—Not at all; nor did she say any thing further about the application.

10162. If it had been altered, and if you had found her in a worse condition than she was when she had previously applied, should you, upon your own responsibility, immediately have added to her allowance?—Yes, I should have given her a loaf, and mentioned it to the guardians, and advised them to see her again for the purpose of increasing her allowance.

10163. In every such case that would be the course you would adopt?—Yes.

10164. Mr. *Baines.*] You say you give an order upon the baker; in your visits dispensing relief, does the baker generally live near the place where that order is given, or have the paupers to go to a considerable distance to receive their bread?—The baker invariably brings it round, unless he lives in the parish.

10165. Does he bring it round the day following?—Sometimes on the day that I go round; sometimes the day following; but at all times at a fixed period; so that the paupers know at what time he is coming, and when they may depend upon their bread.

10166. Mr. *Miles.*] The consequence is, that unless the baker visits at the same time, in all probability there will be a double journey for the poor person, one to meet you there and receive the relief, partly in money, and the other to meet the baker and receive relief partly in bread?—No, the baker usually goes round to their houses.

10167. Mr. *Baines.*] Are your visits made weekly?—Weekly is the general rule; sometimes oftener.

10168. You have stated that the number of persons relieved in the summer of 1837 would be about the average number through the year; do you find it to be so, that the number relieved in the summer and winter are pretty much the same?—No, I find that there is an increase in the winter of applications; but in the summer of 1837 there were perhaps as many as there have been this winter; I should say, perhaps, as many as there had been up to March 1837, and that would be the dead time of the year, because parties had died off, and I do not think an equal number of new paupers had come on.

10169. You do not mean to apply it as a general principle, but to apply it with regard to the summer of that year?—Exactly.

10170. Have you sufficient time to investigate each case that comes before you, in order to satisfy yourself that your return is just towards the pauper and just towards the parish?—I have, and I think the guardians themselves will bear me out in that, that in all the inquiries which they have made, and which they must and do make, according to the parishes they belong to, they have not found me

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wrong in any way; I have done justice, both to the paupers and to the rate-payers; such has been my wish, and how far I have succeeded would perhaps come better from the guardians than from myself.

10171. You say that in some cases you have left the inquiry to be carried on by the overseer; do you yourself, when that inquiry has been made, and when his report is returned, inquire into the case, so as to ascertain if his statement is such as you yourself would have made if you had had the statement to make?—I beg your pardon; I did not say that I left the inquiry with him; the inquiry I have made myself, the relief I have left with him, as not knowing what would be necessary for the party till the doctor arrived; and I have intimated the necessity of complying with the wish of the doctor to give such relief as he might order; the inquiry I had made, and satisfied myself of the correctness of it.

10172. You said that there were some cases of sickness that you had not time to investigate, and in those cases you left it to the overseer to make the inquiry and to report?—I think not; I never left inquiry to be made by any one where I could possibly make it myself.

10173. In those cases in which there was not time to make it?—When I was in the parish I would take time, let it take what time it would.

10174. What is the whole distance of your visiting tour in the week?—I should think about 50 miles.

10175. Your visiting tour occupies three days?—Yes.

10176. Do you find sufficient time in each place that you stop at, to ascertain the situation of the paupers?—I do.

10177. Supposing you are employed 10 hours in the day, how much of those 10 hours would be occupied in travelling?—Not more than three hours on any day.

10178. Leaving you seven hours for your inquiries and for dispensing relief?—Yes.

10179. Mr. *Wakley.*] You said the paupers died off; what did you mean by that?—That they had either died or been discharged, or something of that sort.

10180. You did not allude to the dying off as part of the success of the system?—The numbers have diminished.

10181. Are not new paupers getting upon your list continually?—Yes, but I think not in proportion to the diminution.

10182. Then will you give the Committee an explanation of that expression; what do you mean by paupers dying off?—I mean that they diminish.

10183. That they die?—They have diminished by some means; the list would show that.

10184. Mr. *Liddell.*] You say that the paupers have diminished partly by death and partly by change of residence?—That would diminish them a little.

10185. What is the principal cause of that diminution?—Deaths.

10186. Have the deaths that have taken place since the period of your first returns up to the present time among the paupers been at all in a greater proportion than the ordinary rate of mortality among the infirm and the aged?—Certainly not; they were very old people.

10187. Did some die in consequence of the severity of the winter?—No, not particularly through that, they died of old age; I have not known of any dying of any particular complaints, beyond the decay of nature.

10188. There has been no unusual mortality among them?—No.

10189. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know a person of the name of Jemima Walker, in the parish of Clophill?—Yes.

10190. Did you ever deny that woman access to the board?—I am not aware that I ever did; if I did it must have been in consequence of her case having been recently decided; she has been twice, if not three times before the board to my knowledge within my own recollection; how much oftener I do not know.

10191. Do you know the age of that woman?—Sixty-five or 66.

10192. *Chairman.*] In the application-book, in December 1836, she is stated to be a widow, aged 63, a lace-maker; she is stated to be partially disabled; that the cause of her requiring relief is infirmity, and she received 2*s.*?—She has been before the board since, and I think very recently; I find that the last application she made was on the fourth week of the quarter ending June 1838.

10193. Walker, Jemima, 65; she is stated to have 2*s.*; she appears to have applied for an increase of that allowance, which was refused; the entry is no advance?—That was the case.

10194. Mr.

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10194. Mr. *Fielden.*] Had Jemima Walker 2*s.* 6*d.* a week allowed her at one period since you became relieving officer?—No, not since I became relieving officer, I think.

10195. Had she at any period before you became relieving officer?—That I cannot tell what she had in the time of the old parish accounts; but the returns which have been furnished to this Committee will show, and which I have not seen since they have been furnished.

10196. But it appears from the returns, that she had at one period 2*s.* 6*d.*; something took place, when the reduction was made to 2*s.*; are you clear what took place upon that occasion?—No, I cannot charge my memory with it.

10197. Do you remember ever having any conversation with her, on which occasion she stated to you that she would go before the board?—Yes; she has several times stated to me that she would go before the board, and get an increase, because other widows of that parish did. There was one of the widows of the parish of Clophill, in which she resides, got an increase of allowance; then came one and another, till nearly the whole have been, and she applied amongst the rest to get more allowance, and the board refused it.

10198. Did she apply to you?—They all applied to me.

10199. What took place upon the occasion?—I cannot exactly say what took place; I suppose she applied to me in the same way that another person did, to be allowed to go to the board, and see whether she could get an increase of allowance, and I suppose she came to the board.

10200. Do you recollect the time?—I cannot charge my memory with a thing of that kind; among 600 or 700 paupers, it is impossible that I can charge my memory with the words that take place between the paupers and myself, two or three years ago.

10201. You say you remember her making application to you, and asking to go before the board?—Yes.

10202. Do you remember the time when that was, or anywhere near it?—I should think somewhere about the beginning of 1836, or perhaps towards the middle of 1836; I cannot say exactly when they got their allowances increased.

10203. Do you remember any answer that you gave to her when she said to you that she would go before the board?—No; I do not remember particularly any answer that I gave her.

10204. Did you ever say, that "if she persisted in her determination to go before the board, you would reduce her pay another 6*d.* a week?"—No, that I can safely say; that I never mentioned any such word to any body. I have it not in my power to reduce the pay of any body; the pay is granted by the board of guardians, and increased by them, or reduced by them; I have no power.

10205. Are not your representations to the board generally followed?—No, not generally followed; they generally have some weight, or I should not feel myself fit for the situation.

10206. Have you not stated that the board is guided by your recommendations, as to the nature or degree of allowance to the poor?—I think not; I think I never said that I could sway a board of 25 guardians. I said, that I made those representations, leaving the board to act upon them, but I never imagined that the board would act upon any representation I made. That might have its weight with them, and perhaps has, but as to biassing the board, or deciding the board, I should hardly imagine it does. It seldom occurs when any pauper applies, but what the guardian is present.

10207. You are satisfied that the board does not act according to your recommendations invariably?—Certainly, not invariably.

10208. But mostly as a general rule; have you not stated to the Committee, that they are guided by what you advise?—I think not; I never had any intention to state that.

10209. *Chairman.*] Jemima Walker; I find her name as a widow, belonging to the parish of Clophill; she seems to have received 2*s.* before the introduction of the new law, from the parish; I observe in the 43 weeks of the parish books, previous to the introduction of the law, and afterwards in the years 1835–36, in the nine weeks preceding the introduction of the law, she also received 2*s.*, and that the pay upon the introduction of the law was continued to the same amount; therefore, in this respect, this widow receives exactly the same amount of relief since the introduction of the law that she did before?—So I imagined; I remember very well that when she applied to the board the guardian of her parish was present, and

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it was the representations that he made that swayed the board, and not any remarks that I made, for the woman was a stranger to me, except coming backwards and forwards.

10210. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know a person of the name of Thomas Sharp of Ampthill?—No, I do not.

10211. Have you no recollection of a person of that name making application to you before Christmas last?—No, I have not; I do not know the man at all.

10212. Do you know Jane Hawkins of Lidlington?—Yes.

10213. Did she, at any time about last Michaelmas, apply to you for relief, or for liberty to go to the board?—She is a pauper receiving 1 *s.* a week, and she recently has been to the board and had it increased to 1 *s.* 6 *d.*; but she never made any application to me.

10214. Was she admitted to the board without seeing you at all?—No.

10215. How could her pay have been increased?—She has seen me lately, and got introduced to the board; she represented to me, I remember very well, that her allowance was very small, and she was not very well, and she would like to have her allowance increased; I told her to come to the board the following Thursday, and we would see what could be done; and her allowance was increased, but whether permanently or not I do not remember.

10216. *Chairman.*] Will you refer to the book, and read the entry and the date?—She must have applied to me on the third week of the present quarter, and appeared at the board on the fourth week of the quarter, and her allowance was increased to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a week.

10217. Mr. *Fielden.*] Had she made no previous application to you before the last, which you have now alluded to, when you refused her?—No, I never refused her in my life.

10218. That you are quite certain of?—Yes.

10219. Do you know Catherine Odell, in the parish of Clophill?—No, I do not remember any thing of her.

10220. Do you know a person of the name of Odell, that is in prison?—No, I do not know him.

10221. Nor the wife of any person of that name, who is in prison?—No, I do not.

10222. No such person as Catherine Odell has made any application to you at all?—Not that I can remember; if she has, her application is recorded.

10223. In the case of Wilson, of Steppingley, who was spoken of on a former day, did you refuse him a doctor when he made application?—I refused to give him a doctor, but I told him he might apply to the board; I could not treat that as a case of urgent necessity; I saw nothing urgent in the circumstances at all.

10224. Did you say to him you had no power to grant him a doctor?—I do not know that I did; but if I did, that would have been perfectly correct.

10225. Did you report his case to the board?—I did not, for the man did not come and state his own case; I never enter an application in the application-book unless they appear there; if it is too much trouble to them to come and state their case to the board, I never enter it.

10226. Where do you require them to come to state their case?—To Ampthill.

10227. What is the distance?—A mile and a half.

10228. If he applied to you at the place where you relieved the poor, could not you take down his application, and report it to the board?—I took his application as far as regarded my purpose; but I consider it no part of my duty to report it to the board.

10229. *Chairman.*] State your reasons?—It does not form any part of my duty to lay the case before the board, and, in fact, I have the board's direction not to do it unless the pauper is present to answer inquiries.

10230. Mr. *Barneby.*] Do you never report a case to the board unless the pauper is present?—No, except in cases of sickness.

10231. Mr. *Fielden.*] Here was a case of sickness, and the man applied for a doctor?—The man was not unable to come; he was not sick.

10232. Were not you the medium through which he was to make the application?—Yes; and I told him he might come to the board on the following Thursday.

10233. *Chairman.*] Did he come?—He did not come; he said he supposed it would be of no use; I did not answer him, but I supposed so at the time, because I considered,

I considered, and I dare say the board would have considered so too, that the man was able to find a doctor on his own account. *Mr. John Marshall.* 15 May 1838.

10234. Mr. *Fielden.*] You constituted yourself the judge in his case?—No, my opinion was only private; I told him he might come to the board; they were the judges.

10235. Mr. *Baines.*] When a pauper applies to you, you make a memorandum of his application, and you inform him that it will be necessary that he should meet you at the board, in order that that application may be followed up, and that the board of guardians may determine what is to be done upon it; is that the course?—Yes; and in the interim I make such inquiries as satisfy my mind whether or not it is a case which I can recommend to the guardians for relief.

10236. Then you make your report to the board, and if he is satisfied with the decision of the board, there the matter rests; he has his relief or not as the board may determine; but if he is not satisfied he has an opportunity of appealing to the board against the representation that you have made?—The board never make an order unless the man is present; the man himself appears, and the board questions the man as to his circumstances; the application-book is read over by the clerk or by myself: if the clerk is engaged, I read it over; if he is disengaged, he reads it over; it is read over in the man's presence: if the man has any objections to make to it, he would set it right; but what is there read is taken by me from his own statement: the board then ask him such questions as they think necessary; first the chairman, and then subsequently the remainder of the guardians; he is then told to retire, and the chairman usually says to me, "Do you know any thing of this case?" if I state, I believe it is as the man states, I have not been able to find any thing to the contrary, the board then proceed to vote what the man shall have, and they call in the man, and say they have ordered him so much a week; but if I know any thing which is important for them to have possession of beyond what has been elicited, I mention it, and the board, perhaps, call him in again and tell him of it, and hear any thing he has to say upon it, and then again tell him to retire.

10237. Mr. *Wakley.*] What age was Wilson?—Twenty-seven or 28.

10238. In whose employment was he at the time he applied to you?—Mr. Bennett's.

10239. What wages did he receive?—Nine shillings, he said; but I found the 9*s.* to be 13*s.*

10240. Where does Mr. Bennett reside?—At Beckering's Park; I asked Mr. Bennett myself, and he told me.

10241. Did you know, at the time he applied to you, that he was receiving 13*s.*?—No.

10242. Did you believe that he was receiving 9*s.*?—No, I did not particularly believe it; the man told me, I think, that he had 9*s.*, and that he could not do much out of it; and I made inquiry, and as soon as I heard that he was working for Mr. Bennett, I was of opinion that he had something more than that.

10243. Had he a wife?—Yes.

10244. How many children?—One, to the best of my recollection.

10245. What did he say was the matter with his family?—That his wife had been ill for some time, and wanted a doctor; I told him that I could not give him a doctor, that he might come to the board.

10246. Did you consider it to be a case of emergency?—No, I did not.

10247. Supposing his wages had been 7*s.* a week instead of 9*s.* or 13*s.*, would you have given him an order for a doctor?—No, not unless I had seen it to be a case of urgent necessity; I should leave the board to decide whether or not his circumstances were such as to enable him to send for a doctor; it is only in cases of sudden and urgent necessity that I am authorized to give medical relief.

10248. Have you had any medical education?—No.

10249. How do you know what is a case of sudden and urgent necessity?—I do not know any thing about it.

10250. Then, not knowing any thing about it, do you undertake to determine whether it is a case of sudden and urgent necessity, and, governed by your judgment, do you give or refuse an order?—Yes; I know, at least, what is sudden necessity, if not urgent; if a man tells me that his wife has been ill for eight weeks, that cannot be sudden necessity.

10251. You do not consider that at the end of eight weeks she may be suddenly worse?—No, I do not go into that technically, or I must give an order to all who

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ask me; and this brings to mind the circumstance you mentioned to me, that I was liable for manslaughter, if death should ensue in consequence of my not giving an order; if so, I consider that no remuneration would compensate for holding the situation which I do; if that is the law, I will take care to have the orders written out and all ready.

10252. What are the orders that you receive from the guardians, with reference to your giving medical relief in out-door cases?—To act according to the instructions of the Commissioners.

10253. What are those instructions?—To give relief, whether medical or otherwise, in cases of sudden and urgent necessity; and to constitute a claim for that relief, it must be both sudden and urgent.

10254. You are the person to determine whether the cases are sudden and urgent or not?—Yes.

10255. Then, supposing you have an application for relief from a poor man, do you go to his cottage and ascertain the circumstances under which he makes his application?—If there is a necessity for it I do.

10256. Do you go?—Not invariably.

10257. Do you undertake to refuse to give relief without going to the cottage and inquiring personally into the circumstances of the case?—Perhaps I do not go, sometimes I do.

10258. In some cases you do; in the case of Wilson you withheld relief, although you did not go to see the condition of his wife?—No; that is for want of the medical education that you speak of; had I gone I should have been no wiser.

10259. If you had even seen the person, you do not consider you would have been a judge in that case?—Perhaps not.

10260. Do you consider that you are a judge, not having seen the individual?—Certainly not.

10261. How then can you undertake to withhold relief?—I can judge whether a thing is sudden; and I can judge partly whether it is urgent, because I can judge of the person's means who applies to me to procure that which he asks for.

10262. Can you judge in all cases whether there is danger, from merely looking at a person, much less from hearing a statement from a non-professional individual?—Certainly not.

10263. Then, is it the rule in your union to withhold medical relief in all cases where a person is not in the workhouse, and where he is not receiving relief from the parish?—No.

10264. Describe the cases in which medical relief is given?—In cases of destitution, of sudden and urgent necessity, such as accident; it would be given in the case of accident, where a person was able to send for it; we would not stop to make an inquiry of that kind, but an order would be given to the nearest surgeon on the spot; and in any case which was represented as very urgent it would be given in the first instance, unless it appeared that the person applying for it had the means within his own power.

10265. But medical relief, under ordinary circumstances, is not given to the families of able-bodied labourers out of the workhouse?—No.

10266. That is the instruction which you receive from the guardians?—It is.

10267. Whatever the wages may be, however high or however low, no medical relief is given to the families of the able-bodied?—That is not the instruction, whether the wages are high or whether they are low; it is whether they are in employment or not; if they are they must receive the usual wages.

10268. You have stated that the wages vary from 8*s.* or 9*s.* to 13*s.* a week; suppose a man receiving 8*s.* a week has a wife and four or five children; if an application were made to you to furnish medical relief to the wife or any of the children, would you, as a matter of course, give an order for that relief?—No, not as a matter of course, I should not.

10269. *Chairman.*] You say that the instruction of the board of guardians to you is to act, in cases of medical relief, under the orders of the Commissioners?—Yes, I think they frame their instructions upon that.

10270. You say that in case of any sudden and urgent necessity, which may be construed to include a case of accident, without reference to the want or destitution of the parties, you would think yourself obliged to give medical relief?—I should, and the overseers have the same orders.

10271. If you had notice of the sickness or of any injury received by any pauper in any parish or place for which you are employed to act, would it not be

be your duty to notify the fact of that sickness to the medical officer?—Yes, of any pauper.

10272. That is the rule which applies to the medical relief of paupers?—It is.

10273. When a person who is not a pauper, that is not already in receipt of parochial relief, applies to you for medical assistance, do you not form the best opinion you can whether that person is in a condition to supply medical relief for himself?—I do.

10274. You take into consideration his earnings and the number of his family, and as far as you can form an opinion of his means of paying for medical relief himself?—I do.

10275. If you find persons in circumstances apparently of destitution, although they have not been hitherto paupers, from the small amount of their earnings, from the accidental circumstance of being out of employment in extreme severity of weather, from the large number in the family, or from the prevalence of complaints within the family such as to reduce them to great distress, though they were not paupers, should you, under those circumstances, give medical relief?—I should.

10276. The circumstances under which you would take upon yourself to decline giving an order for medical relief, are those in which you think the man may supply himself with medical relief till the next meeting of the board of guardians?—Yes, that is generally the case.

10277. At most, six days can intervene between the application to you and the meeting of the board?—Yes.

10278. In cases of destitution, whether a man may have been a pauper or not, you feel yourself bound to give medical relief?—Yes, particularly if he is the head of a family.

10279. The illness of the head of a family naturally interfering with the means of subsistence of the family?—Yes, and constituting him a pauper at once.

10280. If you believe that he is in a condition to supply himself with medical assistence till the next meeting of the board, do you take that man's application and bring it before the board at their next meeting?—Yes, I do, and tell the man to come to the next meeting of the board, and that I will take his application that morning when I am sure he will appear.

10281. The board of guardians then exercise their discretion as to whether the circumstances of the man are such as to justify them in giving medical relief?—Yes.

10282. Supposing a man having applied to you for medical assistance, and you having desired him to come before the board of guardians at the next meeting of the board, he could not appear to follow up that application, what would be the course?—I should not lay it before the board, because I have the instructions of the board not to bring cases before them, unless the parties are there to answer such further questions as they may think proper to put to them.

10283. Supposing the man to be ill, and not able to appear?—Then I would lay the case before the board.

10284. You were asked with reference to your power of judging, as to whether the nature of the complaint is one that may be dangerous, and require immediate relief; what difference is there between your power of judging of whether the complaint is a dangerous one, and requires immediate assistance, and the power that was possessed formerly by the parish officers or by the vestry, composed principally of farmers, or by any other person to whom paupers, under the former state of the law, must have made an application?—There does not appear to me to be any difference.

10285. If all who apply were to receive medical assistance, as a matter of course, would not that include almost all the labouring population of the county?—It would, as it did formerly.

10286. Do you not think, considering the situation of the labouring population of Bedfordshire, that there are some families who are able to provide themselves with medical relief and others who are not?—I think many are in a condition to do so, and many might be if they wished.

10287. And others, who, from the smallness of their wages, and the number of their family, or illness in the family, are not able to provide medical assistance?—Certainly.

10288. You think, therefore, that it is necessary to exercise some discrimination with regard to the circumstances of the applicants?—Yes.

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10289. Do you believe that that discrimination, as far as you have the means of judging, has been reasonably exercised by the board of guardians at Ampthill?—I do.

10290. Do you think that medical assistance has been given to those parties who are not in circumstances to provide it?—I think I can scarcely recollect any such case in which they have refused it.

10291. If it were necessary that you should form an opinion as to the nature of the complaint and the urgency of the case, as to medical treatment, would it not be necessary that you and every relieving officer in the country, and every parish officer, they being applied to in cases of sudden and urgent necessity, should receive a medical education in order to be able to form an opinion upon this subject?—Such appears to me to be the case.

10292. Mr. *Wakley.*] You have stated that relief is administered under the same system now, with reference to the relieving officer, and the power exercised by the relieving officer as formerly?—I have never stated any such thing.

10293. You are relieving officer in the Ampthill Union?—Yes.

10294. How many parishes have you in that union?—Nineteen.

10295. Under the old system did not the churchwardens and overseers, who had to administer relief to the poor, reside in the parishes?—Of course they did.

10296. Were they not the resident neighbours of the individuals who were sick and had made application for relief?—Yes.

10297. Do you mean to tell the Committee, that by flying through nineteen parishes you are as capable of judging of the condition of the working people, as persons who have resided in the parishes the whole of their lives would be?—I have never said any thing of the sort to the Committee, nor do I imagine that I am; it is for that reason I imagine that the clause is framed giving power to churchwardens and overseers to give that relief; it is only into their circumstances that I make inquiries.

10298. Under the new law have the churchwardens and overseers the power of giving that relief except in cases of emergency?—They have not.

10299. Are you not the individual to whom the parties must look for relief; the churchwardens cannot relieve except in cases of emergency?—No.

10300. Do you consider that you are as capable of judging what are the circumstances of the family, with reference to sickness, as the individuals are who reside near that family, who have had an opportunity of knowing how they have been situated for many years?—Yes.

10301. You think you can judge as well?—Yes.

10302. Of what place are you native?—Of Kent.

10303. What parish in Kent?—Rochester.

10304. Where did you reside till you were 20 years of age?—In various places.

10305. Name them?—I cannot, perhaps; before I was 20 years of age I had resided in some 3,000 places; I had been in the army, and had travelled far.

10306. Have you yourself been a farmer?—No.

10307. Have you mixed much with working people?—Not a great deal, perhaps, not as regards agricultural people working in the country; but you are aware that a great portion of the army is composed of agricultural labourers; I have had very close acquaintance with them, and have had an opportunity of knowing the manners and customs of all parts of the country from their conversation.

10308. From a soldier you think that would give you a very good notion with reference to the habits of the people in their cottages?—I think a military school is much better than you imagine.

10309. It is not what I imagine, it is what you are capable of doing from the education you have received; have you been in the habit of mixing with the working people in their cottages?—I have not.

10310. What was your occupation from the time you were 20 years of age till you were employed as relieving officer in the Ampthill Union?—Chiefly in the army; sometimes serjeant-major and sometimes paymaster's clerk; I held, during a great portion of my time, a civil situation in the army, as paymaster's clerk.

10311. When did you leave the army?—In 1831.

10312. What did you do then?—Lived upon my means.

10313. Where?—Both in the country and in the parish of Mary-le-bone; in the parish of Mary-le-bone I was in business.

10314. Where did you reside in the country?—In Kent.

10315. Will you name the place?—Chatham.

10316. What street?—There are no streets in Chatham; I lived in the parish of Chatham.

10317. Supposing a letter had been addressed to you at Chatham, how would it have found you?—Very easily; the post-master knew me very well.

10318. What would be the mode of address?—Merely Chatham.

10319. You followed no occupation there?—I followed no occupation after I was out of the army.

10320. How long did you remain at Chatham?—I cannot exactly say.

10321. When did you go to reside in Mary-le-bone?—In the year 1833.

10322. Were you at Chatham two years?—Chatham and other places.

10323. What other places?—Some part of the time in London; I lived in London, besides living in Chatham.

10324. Where did you reside in London?—This seems to me to be an inquiry rather into my private affairs than into the nature of the law.

10325. It is no more a matter of inquiry into your private affairs than with a view to see whether the guardians have exercised due diligence in their appointment of you?—The guardians appointed me in consequence of my answer to the advertisement.

10326. Where did you reside after you left Chatham?—I resided for some time in No. 8, William-street, Hampstead-road, and 164, Fleet-street, and 64, John-street, Fitzroy-square.

10327. When did you reside in William-street, Hampstead-road?—I cannot tell you.

10328. Did you carry on business in either of those places?—I did.

10329. In which of them?—At No. 164, Fleet-street.

10330. And also in John-street, Fitzroy-square?—No; nor yet in William-street.

10331. What business did you carry on in Fleet-street?—I was in partnership with a printer; not that I was a printer; I know nothing at all of the business.

10332. In what year was that?—In 1832.

10333. Where were you residing at the time you made application to be the relieving officer of the Ampthill Union?—In James's-street, Oxford-street.

10334. Is that in the parish of Mary-le-bone?—Yes.

10335. What was the number there?—Forty-eight.

10336. What were you doing there?—Keeping a grocer's-shop; at least, when I say I was keeping a grocer's-shop, I did keep a shop there, but I did not at the time I made application to the board of guardians; but I had given it up some few days, not more than two or three days; I resigned it at Midsummer, and I think I saw this advertisement of the Ampthill board of guardians at the very beginning of July.

10337. From this statement of your different places of residence, it appears that you have not resided in any rural district in connexion with agricultural affairs?—Not at all; I have told this Committee so already.

10338. And you have not been connected with labourers in agricultural pursuits, excepting your occupation as a soldier?—No, I have not.

10339. Still, under those circumstances, having been so brought up, and having so passed your life, you are of opinion that you are as capable of judging what may be the circumstances of the working people as churchwardens and overseers, and other individuals who have passed their lives in the neighbourhood?—That opinion has been formed by the guardians, and I have no reason to gainsay it.

10340. *Chairman.*] You have described yourself not to have been very conversant with the habits of the rural population of the country at the time you answered the advertisement of the board of guardians for a relieving officer for the Ampthill Union?—I was not.

10341. You were chosen upon certain testimonials, and for a short time, were you not?—No, I was provisionally chosen.

10342. You were chosen provisionally, in order to give the guardians an opportunity of ascertaining, from your mode of conducting the business, whether you conducted it to their satisfaction?—Yes; I did the duty of relieving officer for three weeks, without any salary at all.

10343. Having done it for three weeks, were you appointed permanently?—Yes, to that district.

10344. How long did you do the duty of that district?—Eleven months.

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10345. After having for three weeks executed the duty provisionally, and 11 months permanently for one district of the union, were you appointed by the board of guardians relieving officer of the whole union?—I was, in opposition to one who had resided all his life-time in a rural district.

10346. The board of guardians are composed very much of the farmers of that neighbourhood?—Yes, they are.

10347. The farmers of that neighbourhood must be perfectly conversant with the rural habits of the population?—Yes.

10348. The farmers, therefore, would be able to judge whether your reports were correct or not?—I think they would.

10349. They appointed you provisionally, and afterwards permanently, to a part of the union, and subsequently to the whole union?—Yes.

10350. Being satisfied that your conduct entitled you to their confidence?—It would appear so; I had 16 votes out of 21.

10351. You consider, that when there was a contest at the election of the relieving officer, the board having voted in the proportion you have named is a proof that they were disposed to place confidence in you?—It would appear so.

10352. When were you first elected?—On the 9th of July 1835.

10353. How many boards of guardians have been chosen since your first election?—Three.

10354. Therefore you have received your appointment from three boards of guardians, those boards being principally composed of the farmers of the district of Ampthill?—I have.

10355. Mr. *Baines.*] Was there any particular reason why you should be chosen in preference to any other candidate, from relationship or connexion, or from any other cause of that nature?—I had not a relation there, and I never before was in the county of Bedford, that I know of; I had not a relation or any one to speak for me, nor did I know any one; I was elected from the testimonials which I produced.

10356. Is there any reason to suppose that you have been retained in your situation from favouritism?—I think not.

10357. Have you any local connexions in that part of the world?—None.

10358. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You said that you had no particular connexion with agriculture?—No.

10359. Have you been in the habit of seeing cottagers in their cottages?—Yes, I have seen much of that.

10360. But you held the office of serjeant-major in the army?—Yes.

10361. Is it not a part of the duty of the serjeant-major to be on the alert to observe the conduct of the privates, and to be always ready to give an account of their conduct, whether that conduct be good or bad, to the field officers who may require a report from him?—That is the duty of the serjeant-major.

10362. And therefore, from your experience, you consider yourself to be a person capable of conducting inquiries into the state and condition of the poor?—It struck me when I saw the advertisement, from that very circumstance, that it was the very thing that would suit me, or I was going into business again.

10363. Mr. *Fielden.*] In the case of Wilson, you have stated that you obtained information that he was receiving 13*s.* a week, and that you obtained that information from his employer Mr. Bennett?—I did.

10364. Did you make inquiry how long Wilson had been receiving 13*s.* a week?—No, not particularly, but I think I may say all the winter.

10365. Would you say that all the winter he had been receiving 13*s.* a week as a labourer?—Yes, I think I understood Mr. Bennett to say so, that he had drawn 10*s.* a week, and that he and three more had drawn 5*l.* as a balance for six weeks' work, which would make it more than 13*s.* a week.

10366. Mr. Bennett said that Wilson had been receiving 13*s.* a week as his weekly wages?—I infer, from what Mr. Bennett said, that this man was in the habit of drawing 10*s.* a week all the winter; he said that he had been drawing all the winter; and, to show me what he did get, that for the last six weeks, he and three more had got 5*l.* which was 25*s.* more.

10367. Did you or did you not say to the Committee that Wilson was receiving 13*s.* a week, at the time he made his application to you, from Mr. Bennett, the farmer?—I am not sure that I did; if I did, perhaps it was quite correct, but I am not quite sure that it was correct; if I said so, I mentioned this to the Committee.

10368. Have

10368. Have you got data which you can bring before this Committee, to show, from the communications that you had with the farmer, that he had been receiving 13*s.* a week for any period back?—No, I have not, but I can very soon get them; I received a verbal communication from Mr. Bennett. I met him in the street, and I did not take any minute, or any thing, but I asked him of the circumstance, and he told me; and, to the best of my recollection, my impression is that he had received about 13*s.* a week all the winter; that was my impression at the time, and that is my impression now.

10369. What you stated as a fact before, you now state as an impression; is that to be understood by the Committee?—If you please, I would rather you should take it as an impression than as a fact; because I can ascertain whether it is a fact afterwards.

10370. You have stated that Wilson made application to you for a doctor; you denied him a doctor, because you thought him not a proper object of relief?—No, I did not say so; I denied him, because it was not a case of sudden and urgent necessity, and that I could interfere with, and it was for the board to decide upon it.

10371. How do you know that it was not a proper case for you to interfere in?—Because he told me that his wife had been ill for six weeks and more.

10372. Did the circumstance of the woman having been ill for six weeks convince you that she was not in urgent want of a doctor?—It convinced me that it was not sudden.

10373. Might not the denial of the doctor have been one of the causes of the death of the poor woman, if she had died before the man could go to the board?—No, I think not; I think it very unlikely.

10374. Do you know how long the wife of Wilson had been unwell?—I think five or six weeks.

10375. Do you know what is the nature of the complaint, as stated by the doctor?—No, he has never stated it; she is not attended by the doctor.

10376. Her husband applied to you for one, and could not obtain one?—No, he could not, from me.

10377. Have you not stated to the Committee that you thought that Wilson was in the receipt of wages which did not entitle him to any relief from the parish?—I stated that, but not as my reason for refusing him a doctor; my reason was, because I had not the power to give him one.

10378. What led you, then, to make inquiry as to Wilson's wages?—That if he appeared before the board, I might give the board the information which they would require.

10379. At the time he made the application to you, you did not know his wages?—No.

10380. But you took upon yourself to determine that he was not a proper person to whom relief should be given, as a case of necessity?—Certainly, from the fact of his being an able-bodied man, in employment, and in the receipt of wages; and, his wife having been ill for some time, it was neither sudden nor urgent, and I could not take it as such; and our board would not have been satisfied if I had taken that as a case of sudden and urgent necessity.

10381. But do you not constitute yourself the judge?—I have not said any thing with a view to that meaning; if I have it has been spoken inadvertently.

10382. In describing cases of urgent necessity have you said any thing or nothing as to who was to be the judge, when an application is made?—I beg to say in answer to that, that to constitute any claim upon me as the relieving officer, for relief, it must be both sudden and urgent; those two words are in connexion, not sudden or urgent.

10383. Upon that you act?—Upon that I act.

10384. What constitutes both sudden and urgent necessity?—I have already stated this morning that accident constitutes that, or the case of a person falling into a fit, or any thing of that sort; that is a sudden thing and urgent, because a person might go off in that way, but if a person has been ill for some time and waited, she could wait for one more day, or two more days, and come before the board.

10385. Suppose a poor man has his wife sick, suddenly taken in labour, and he applies to you for a doctor, would you consider that a case of urgent necessity?—That is a case for the overseer.

10386. And not a case for the relieving officer?—No; unless I reside in the parish, how can I know what the case is so well as the person upon the spot?

 10387. Then

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10387. Then the overseer has a power which the relieving officer has not?—No, I think not.

10388. Is there any thing in the law that enjoins any such duties on the relieving officer, or on the overseer either?—Yes.

10389. Can you point it out?—The 54th section of the Act will point it out; it says nothing about the relieving officer there; but the interpretation clause will make me an overseer as well as a relieving officer.

10390. Then you are overseer as well as relieving officer?—Yes.

10391. Then you have the power that all overseers have of granting relief in cases where you think proper to do so?—Yes, I have; but I have not the same means of judging that they have.

10392. Will you, on that account, refuse relief?—If they reside in the parish of Ampthill they always make the application to myself, not to the overseer.

10393. Suppose a person came from Shitlington, seven miles from Ampthill, and told you that his wife was in labour, and required a doctor, or she would be likely to lose her life, what would you do?—In the first place, I should think the man acted wrongly in coming to me and not going to the overseer; it has been published ofttimes and ofttimes that the overseer can relieve them in those cases, and there is not a pauper, whatever they may say to the contrary, within that union but what knows the course of proceeding, and they know that in cases of sickness they ought to apply to the overseer.

10394. Supposing a man went to the overseer of the parish, and the overseer refused to give him relief, but sent him over to the relieving officer, and when he has got to the relieving officer, the relieving officer also sends him back without relief? —If the overseer hesitates to treat a case as a case of urgent necessity, I should leave it upon his shoulders.

10395. You would not act the part of overseer?—Is it possible that I can judge of a case seven or eight miles off, when an overseer upon the spot would not do it? I should consider that the man was not telling me the truth.

10396. Mr. *Baines.*] Is it at all probable that a man's wife being in labour, he would go to a distance of seven miles when he could go one mile to obtain this medical relief?—I think it is exceedingly unlikely.

10397. If it is so exceedingly unlikely, do you know any instance where the thing has ever occurred?—I do not.

10398. Do you suppose that there will be ever an instance in which it will occur? —I cannot suppose that there will.

10399. Mr. *Fielden.*] In this case of Wilson, you made the inquiry as to his wages after you had refused the doctor which he applied for, did you not?—Yes, and I think, also, before I had been to his employer I asked the man how much he was getting: I usually do; if I did not it was a great omission.

10400. What did the man tell you he was getting?—I think he said 9*s.*

10401. You are quite certain that he told you 9*s.*?—I think he told me 9*s.*; I cannot charge my memory with every thing of that kind.

10402. The person by whom he was employed has told you that he earned 13*s.*? —He has.

10403. Mr. *Barneby.*] Whether he obtained 9*s.* or 13*s.*, as it was not a case of sudden and urgent necessity, it would not have been your duty to order the medical man to attend the wife?—Certainly not.

10404. Mr. *Miles.*] In the course of conversation, he told you that his wife had been ill six weeks; did you at the same time ask him whether she was worse than she had been?—I do not know; I think not.

10405. Do not you think it necessary to make those inquiries, if you do not visit the cottage?—In the majority of cases, I should have had the words, "Yes, much worse than she was yesterday; wants a doctor very bad."

10406. If he had stated that, would it not have been your duty to go and visit the case?—No; I think he ought to go and procure the doctor on his own account.

10407. If the man's story was true, that he received 9*s.* a week, may not his necessary outlay upon the poor woman in the six weeks during which she was ill have been such as not to allow him to call for those necessaries which her disease required?—That might have been the case, but as the board-day was so near, it could not have lasted above another day or two, and the man might have come to the board and made his representation there, and whatever the guardians thought necessary would have been ordered.

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10408. Might not the woman in those two or three days have been so exceedingly ill that particular medicines were necessary to save her life, which medicines the man himself had not sufficient money to procure?—That is not quite an impossible case, but it is a very improbable one, in my opinion.

10409. Mr. *Baines.*] If she had been so ill, do you think the man would have failed in making such a representation of the case to you?—I think he would not.

10410. Did he so represent it?—He did not; he came in and sat himself down and said, "Can a man have a doctor if his wife is sick?" and I said, "Is your wife sick?" "Yes," he said, "How long has she been sick?" "Six weeks." "Whom do you work for?" "Mr. Bennett," I said, "I cannot give you an order, but you can come over to the board."

10411. Did he follow up those observations with any thing to this effect: "My wife is so ill that the case will not admit of delay, and I must have a doctor immediately"?—No, he followed it up by saying that it was a hard case that a man could not have a doctor now the same as under the old law.

10412. Mr. *Wakley.*] In point of fact, did you not consider that it was not your duty to interfere in the case, the man not being a pauper?—I did, in a great measure, unless the case had been sudden.

10413. I call your attention to the second rule of the instructions of the Commissioners, under the title, "Duties of Relieving Officers."—"Second. It is the duty of the relieving officer to receive all applications for relief, and to examine into the merits and circumstances of each case, and report the same to the board at their next weekly meeting." You heard what this man had to say when he applied for medical relief; did you report his case to the board?—I did not.

10414. Upon what ground did you decline reporting that case?—Because the man did not make a personal application to the board, as I desired him, and the board would not have heard any application from me unless the man had been present.

10415. After you saw the man, did you make any inquiry into the circumstances of his case?—I made such inquiry as I thought necessary to enable me to inform the guardians, if the man came.

10416. Did you make any other inquiry except that as to the amount of the man's wages?—I did not.

10417. You made no inquiry as to the condition of the woman?—No.

10418. You did not call at the cottage?—No, the man not having appeared at the board.

10419. If the man had appeared would you have been in a condition to make a report?—If I had gone, what could I have had but the woman's statement?

10420. What is the meaning of those words you are to "examine into the merits and circumstances of each case, and report the case to the board at their next weekly meeting"?—That is left discretionary with me, as to what steps I may think best to pursue.

10421. Supposing a pauper makes an application for relief in this way, what is the usual course of inquiry that you adopt?—I vary that; I like to obtain information as much as possible, after I have his account, from his neighbours and from the farmers, and those who have been in the habit of employing him.

10422. You do not inquire of the cottagers?—Not always; I have my reasons for that, which it is not necessary to explain.

10423. Do you think it likely that you would get the best information from the farmers?—I do.

10424. Suppose, in consequence of your neglecting a case, a pauper died, and an inquest was held upon the body, who would be the jurymen; what description of persons would be the jurymen?—Those farmers.

10425. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you ever visited the house of Wilson, either before or since he made application?—No.

10426. You do not know what the number of his children is?—He is not a pauper; I have no business to visit him.

10427. But he made an application for relief, and you refused to give him any?—I declined to give him this, because I had not the power to give it.

10428. You told him that he must apply to the board?—Yes, and that man failed to make himself a pauper, and therefore he is not in my list.

10429. Did you take him down in your list of applicants when he applied to you for the doctor?—I did, in my private list.

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10430. Have you that private list with you?—I take it, as I have before observed, in pencil; when that is filled up it is rubbed out, and then goes on again.

10431. Has his name been entered on the book for relief?—Certainly not; nor did it come before the board.

10432. But you took down his name in pencil?—Sufficiently for me to judge of the case; but I always let them come to the receiving-room, and state their application in a way that I can put it down.

10433. Have you not said this morning, in your examination, that you have had instructions from the board not to bring before them cases that do not deserve relief?—No, I never have said that.

10434. Have you had any instruction from the board of guardians relative to your conduct in bringing before them applicants for relief?—No, there are no particular instructions on that point.

10435. Have you had any instructions as to the cases that you should bring before them?—No; the only instructions that I have had are, not to bring a case a second time before them, unless there are new features in the case.

10436. Have you received those instructions verbally or written?—Verbally, many times.

10437. Have you had any written instructions from the board on the subject?—I do not know that they ever made a minute of it.

10438. They never gave instructions to you in writing?—No, they have not; beyond the rules of the commissioners.

10439. Mr. *Miles.*] Will you state what your verbal instructions are?—They are given from time to time, according to the circumstances that might occur at the time. The chairman might say, "Do not let this occur again;" and they might give me instructions upon any other point; if that is in accordance with the commissioners' regulations, of course I comply with it.

10440. Have you ever received any verbal instructions from the board contradictory to that code of regulations which you receive from the Poor Law Commissioners?—I have not; if I had, I should have remonstrated.

10441. And the verbal instructions which you have received from the board, have been as to particular cases, and not as to your duty universally?—Not as to my duty universally; they have always been as to particular cases.

10442. Mr. *Fielden.*] I will call your attention to the case of Ruth Cole, in 9328; did the husband of Ruth Cole make application to you for a doctor for his wife?—Yes; he came over to my house.

10443. Did you refuse to give him an order for a doctor?—Yes; I declined to do so, because the overseer had not done so.

10444. How do you know that the overseer had refused?—He told me that he had applied to the overseer.

10445. And you believed the husband of Ruth Cole, that he was telling the truth?—I did, in the first place; and in the next place, the overseer sent me a note; it was signed by him, whether in his hand-writing or not I cannot say, saying that the wife was ill and wanted a doctor.

10446. And you refused to give the order applied for by the husband of Ruth Cole?—Yes.

10447. You have stated, that the ground on which you refused relief was the impression on your mind that he was not a proper object of relief?—Certainly.

10448. What were the earnings of the husband of Ruth Cole on that occasion?—Ten shillings a week.

10449. What was the number of his family?—One.

10450. Did you know that at the time that he made application?—Yes.

10451. How did you know it?—I knew the man before.

10452. Did you know his family before?—No, I did not know a great deal about him, but I knew there was such a person, with one child; perhaps I asked him; at all events, I knew that there was but one child, except the one born that morning, which was no expense.

10453. He told you that he had made application to the overseer, before he came to you?—Yes.

10454. What distance was it from the cottage of Cole to the overseer, and what distance from the overseer's house to Ampthill?—From the overseer's house about a mile and a half; and the distance from the overseer's house to Cole's house, is only a few yards; Steppingley, altogether, is a very small parish.

10455. Did

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10455. Did he say any thing to you as to the ground upon which the overseer had refused him a doctor?—No, he did not.

10456. Do you recollect what conversation passed between you and the husband of Ruth Cole when he made the application?—Yes, I remember I told him, that he being in work he should provide a doctor; he said, "Mr. Chapman will not come without the money;" said I, "How do you know; have you asked him?" he said, "No;" then said I, "Do you owe him a bill?" "No," he said; "Then," said I, "go and ask him on your own account, and let me know what he says;" had the man told me that Mr. Chapman would not go without the money, and that he did not possess the means to pay him the money, I should have considered it a case of necessity, and given an order for the doctor, and reported the case to the guardians.

10457. Did the man tell you what was the situation of his wife at the time he came to you?—Yes, I quite understood that she was put to bed.

10458. Did you understand that she was suffering severely from some complaint?—No, I did not understand that there was any thing more in it than that she was put to bed that morning by some midwife in the village, and that she wanted a doctor also.

10459. Was there a farmer, too, that interfered in the case of Ruth Cole?—Not that I am aware of; I got no account from any farmer about it; I got a note from the overseer.

10460. Here was a case of a man coming two miles, at least, to make application to you for a doctor, a case which would have been thought by some a case of urgent necessity, perhaps; did you think it a case of urgent necessity?—It was not my place to think about it, it was the place of the overseer to think it a case of urgent necessity, if it were so; not for me to judge.

10461. It was not your place, you say, as overseer; you are overseer too, are you not?—Not of that parish, when I am not in it.

10462. Are you not overseer in all the parishes?—No, I think not; I do not intend to apply it in that way.

10463. Is it true that Ruth Cole died soon afterwards?—Yes.

10464. There is no doubt about that fact?—No.

10465. Is it true that no doctor was found for Ruth Cole till a considerable period of time had elapsed after she gave birth to the child?—Yes, I suppose that is true enough, for she was put to bed, it seems, in the morning, but no doctor was applied for to me till the evening; and I believe no more time was lost than that the man, instead of going to Mr. Chapman, and asking him to go, as I had desired him, went to Steppingley, telling Mr. Linsdell that he could not get a doctor, and Mr. Linsdell gave him an order for one out of his own pocket; that was all the time that was lost; I suppose it might be an hour at the farthest, and that I consider much more the man's fault than any body else's, either overseer or any body else.

10466. Mr. *Wakley.*] How many medical officers have you in the Union of Ampthill?—Four.

10467. Mr. *Scrope.*] Can you tell what the charge would be that would be made by a surgeon for attending a case of this sort?—I should suppose about 2*s.* 6*d.* for his first attendance; and a bottle of medicine would have been another shilling or so; I cannot say what that would have been.

10468. You think that a labourer who was earning 10*s.* a week, and who had but one child, would be able to afford that sum, or would obtain credit for it from the surgeon?—I feel quite sure of it; and I have asked Mr. Chapman, and he says, if the man had asked him he would have gone.

10469. *Chairman.*] Then the man did not ask Mr. Chapman to go?—He did not.

10470. Mr. Chapman writes to me, that he had "attended this woman 17 months before, in May 1836, and that she died from disease of long continuance and great complication, and not from any complaint incident to her confinement."—I was not aware of that.

10471. Mr. *Scrope.*] If, in this case, the woman really did require immediate surgical assistance, do you not think that the circumstances, as stated, prove rather a want of feeling and due affection on the part of the husband, who would not endeavour to obtain attendance on credit from the medical officer, but, in a circuitous way, by applying to the parish officer?—It does appear to me to be so; it seemed to me to be merely a question with him of pounds, shillings and pence.

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10472. Mr. *Wakley.*] You have now heard that the surgeon did attend for several months?—He did attend several months before that, and therefore I consider that Mr. Chapman was the proper person to apply to.

10473. Mr. *Fielden.*] Who was the overseer of that parish at that time?—Mr. Phillips.

10474. Did Cole tell you that the overseer had sent him to you?—There was no occasion to tell me that; he brought me a note from the overseer, saying on the note that Cole's wife had been put to bed that morning by the midwife, and she required a doctor; my first impression was, that if the thing was urgent and a doctor was required in haste, it was the duty of the overseer to have given it; but, in the next place, I supposed that the reason why he did not give it was, because he imagined that he was capable of getting it himself; a man in constant work, with only one child, if he is not able to provide a doctor, who is? we must then give itto every one.

10475. Are you not aware that this man had had sickness in his family for a considerable time, and that his wife had been delicate?—I am not.

10476. The doctor says that he had attended this woman?—Seventeen months before.

10477. *Chairman.*] Had this man been a pauper?—He had not.

10478. Had you, therefore, any means of knowing his condition?—No.

10479. Had he ever made an application to you for relief?—No.

10480. Mr. *Fielden.*] Was not this case more deserving of attention on that account?—I am not supposed to judge upon the merits of cases; destitution is the test with me, and not character.

10481. If the overseer had not thought it a case which ought to be relieved, would he have given the man a note to you?—If he did think so, it was his place to have written an order for the doctor, and not to me; I can receive no orders from overseers; they are not empowered to give orders to me.

10482. Had Phillips, the overseer, ever given relief in any former case, and had a difficulty in getting refunded?—I believe he had not; but his wife tells me that he had; I called upon him, and whether the man was at home or not, I do not know; he was very near; I waited some considerable time, and if he was at home, he was denied; and, at last, his wife told me that in the case of a man of the name of Farmer, who lived in the Woburn Union, and came over to solicit relief, he had given him 2*s.*, and they had spoken to me about it, and I had told them that he must lose it; I am not aware that he had spoken to me about it, but if he did, that was the answer I should have given to him, because the man was living out of the union, and, in the next place, he had no authority to give it in money.

10483. Then you do believe that the overseer had had a difficulty in obtaining something back which he had given to a poor man?—No, I do not believe it; I have no reason to believe it; the wife tells me that such is the case.

THIRTY-FIRST REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
15 *May* 1838.

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THIRTY-SECOND

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
16 *May* 1838.

469.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the RELIEF of the POOR under the Orders and Regulations issued by the COMMISSIONERS appointed under the Provisions of the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT; and who were empowered to report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them from time to time to THE HOUSE;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

16 *May* 1838.

WITNESS.

Mr. *John Marshall.*

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Mercurii, 16° *die Maii,* 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Lister.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Scrope.
Mr. Hodges.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Langdale.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *John Marshall,* again called in; and further Examined.

10484. Mr. *Fielden.*] DO you know in what state of health Ruth Cole was for any time previous to her confinement?—No, I do not.

10485. You have not taken any pains to inquire, since that case came to your knowledge?—No; the man not being a pauper, I had done with the case.

10486. Was not a coffin granted to the husband of Ruth Cole, after her death?—Yes.

10487. What was the reason for granting the coffin, if you did not think that a case deserving of relief?—I do not know what the reason of the board of guardians might have been for granting the coffin; it was an extra expense which came upon the man, which perhaps they thought he was unable to bear.

10488. It was thought desirable, I suppose, that she should be buried, though little care was taken of her during her life, was it?—I suppose so; I do not know what care was taken of her during her life; that was the husband's business, I should say.

10489. But application was made to you for assistance, was not there?—Yes, there was an application to me, as has been already stated.

10490. He himself made application to you for a doctor, which you refused?—Yes.

10491. And after that application was made, the woman died?—Yes.

10492. Your ground of refusal was, that you thought his wages were enough for his maintenance, and the maintenance of his family, and to supply himself with medical relief in the situation in which he then was?—Exactly.

10493. Before the birth of this child, he had only one child?—That was all.

10494. He had himself, and his wife and child to support out of those earnings?—Yes.

10495. What was the amount of his earnings?—Ten shillings a week.

10496. What would be his outgoings for rent and for fuel?—I do not know, I am not prepared to speak as to that. As to his fuel, it is a matter which we do not inquire into; it is not thought necessary by the board.

10497. Do not you think it necessary that the poor people should have fuel?—Yes; but we have not thought it necessary to inquire how much it costs them.

10498. Does not that charge diminish the income they have left for food and clothing?—No doubt of that.

10499. Can you give any opinion what the wife and his child had to subsist upon, after paying the expenses for other things besides food and clothing?—I am not prepared to give an opinion upon that subject, because I have not thought of it.

10500. Do you never enter into any estimate of what means they have, when they apply for relief?—I do.

10501. Why did you not in that case?—Because the man was in work, and was an independent labourer, and one I had nothing to do with.

 10502. You

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10502. You deny relief to all independent labourers?—As a general rule, I do.

10503. Is it invariably the case?—Not invariably.

10504. Had not this man, at the time, his wife suffering under a severe confinement, and did he not at that time stand in need of medical attendance, either to be obtained at his own expense or at the expense of somebody else; and was it not your duty, as relieving officer, to deal kindly with this man, as recommended in the instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners?—That the man did need medical relief for his wife seems quite apparent, but as he had no expenses besides the usual things, that I am aware of, left him; I think he was perfectly capable of procuring it for himself, and I thought so at the time.

10505. Yo do not feel any compunction whatever for having denied the doctor to that man?—I do not.

10506. Did not the circumstance of giving him a coffin for her burial show that the board of guardians thought he was an object of relief?—I do not know that it did; if a man refuses to bury his wife, or says that he is without the means of burying his wife, it does not follow that he has not the means of obtaining medical relief; a funeral is a serious charge; the obtaining medical relief is not a serious charge, in the first instance.

10507. Do you know who attended as midwife on the delivery of Ruth Cole?—No, I do not; it was some woman.

10508. You have not taken much pains to inquire any thing about it since the death of this poor woman?—No.

10509. *Chairman.*] Has he made any application to you since the death of this woman?—He has, for the coffin.

10510. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is the child of which she was delivered living?—I believe it is.

10511. How is that provided for?—By the father.

10512. Has he ever asked since for any support for himself and his children?—Yes.

10513. And you have denied it?—The board of guardians have denied it, not I; the board of guardians have considered that he is quite able to keep his two children.

10514. Did he make an application to you since the death of his wife for relief?—He did.

10515. Did you take down the application?—Yes.

10516. You represented it to the board?—He represented it himself.

10517. His name was entered in your application-book and reported to the board?—It was.

10518. What were his circumstances when he made this application, after the death of his wife?—He was in work; he could not convince the board that his circumstances were such that he needed relief, or they would have given it, I suppose.

10519. Who now takes care of the child?—That I am not aware of; the man is not a pauper; I never made inquiry.

10520. You do not think it your duty to make inquiry what means the family have when they are left orphans?—Certainly not; it is his duty to apply to me, and not for me to apply to him.

10521. *Chairman.*] When did this man apply to the board?—Perhaps three months ago, and he was heard by the board, and the board refused to give any relief.

10522. Mr. *Fielden.*] Was the workhouse offered to him?—I think not.

10523. *Chairman.*] Upon referring to the application-book, Cole, John, appears to be 28 years of age, to have a girl four years of age and an infant, and his wife died in childbirth; he makes an application to the board in the ninth week of the quarter ending the 23d of December 1837, and the order of the board is, that the relieving officer should defray the expense of the coffin; then the same man applies again in the fifth week of the quarter ending the 24th of March 1838; he has a girl four years old and an infant three months old, and it appears to be first of all entered in the book that he was offered the workhouse, or a place of work at 9*s.*, and that is scratched out, and afterwards "refused" is entered, so that, ultimately, the decision of the board is, that he should be refused relief at that time?—As far as I recollect that case, they came to a decision to offer him the workhouse, but understanding that he was in a constant

place of work at 9*s.* a week, they considered they had no power to offer the workhouse to a man who had the means of subsistence within his reach.

10524. I find another entry; in the fifth week of the quarter ending the 24th of March 1838, John Cole applies for relief for his child; his earnings are stated to be 10*s.* a week, and he is refused that relief, being in constant work?—That is as near as I can recollect it.

10525. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you said, on any occasion, that if relief should be afforded to him when his wife was in sickness, the overseer should have given it?—Yes, medical relief.

10526. Do you or do you not blame the overseer for not giving the relief when he was asked by the man?—Yes, when he knew that it was a case of necessity, if he did know it.

10527. Is it your opinion that he did know that it was a case of necessity?—Subsequent events seem to throw that light upon it.

10528. And you wish to transfer the blame from yourself to the overseer?—No, I do not wish to transfer the blame from myself to the overseer; I do not think the blame ever rested upon me, and therefore I cannot wish to transfer it.

10529. Did not the man come to you with the overseer's note?—Yes; but the overseer had no occasion to apply to me, for he could have given the order himself, if it was a case of necessity.

10530. Then the overseer is to blame?—Yes; if any body is to blame it is he, and not I.

10531. You say instructions have been circulated among the overseers to inform them what is their duty; do you think that those instructions are calculated to convey to the overseers that they can exercise that discretion without danger?—Those are not the only instructions that the overseers are furnished with.

10532. Have you heard those instructions read in this Committee?—Yes.

10533. Are they not calculated to prevent their giving relief rather than to encourage them to do so?—I do not know that they are.

10534. Have you read them over carefully, so as to observe what effect they are calculated to have upon the overseers?—I have; such is not my impression of the tendency of them.

10535. In the instructions there is this paragraph: "I am directed to observe, that the necessity which would justify the interference of an overseer must be really urgent, and not in any degree fictitious or pretended, and such officer must be thoroughly persuaded that by allowing the applicant to remain until the following board-day, real danger or serious injury would be likely to result;" are those instructions, in your opinion, calculated to encourage the overseers to discharge that duty, or are they not the reverse?—I think they are very much in point there; and I think, had the overseer paid attention to those instructions, the doctor would have been sent for on that occasion by the overseer, unless the overseer was persuaded that the man had the means in his own power of getting a doctor.

10536. But the overseer, in this case, sent the man to you, and you became the judge of whether it was the case of urgent necessity or not?—I could not judge of a thing that was two miles from me.

10537. Did you disbelieve the man when he told you that his wife was suffering from her confinement?—Certainly I did not disbelieve him.

10538. Did he tell you that his wife was in imminent danger, and that she required a doctor immediately?—He did not tell me that she was in imminent danger; he said that she required a doctor immediately, and I thought that the man was quite capable of getting a doctor himself; and I told the man to ask Mr. Chapman to go down on his own account.

10539. Would not the overseer have thought so too?—I cannot say; the overseer would be better acquainted with the man's circumstances than I was.

10540. How could he be better acquainted than you, when, as you have stated, you know every applicant in the parish?—I never said such a thing.

10541. Have you known any cases of overseers giving relief who have not had the money refunded by the board?—No further than I mentioned a case before, and that was not brought to the board.

10542. Did not you say that you had been told by his wife, that the overseer had been refused being refunded some money that he had advanced?—Yes, I said that; I said, at the same time, that I had no recollection of the circumstance, but

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if ever they had asked me, that must have been the answer I should have given them, that they must lose it because it was against the law.

10543. Have you not said that you never knew a case where the refunding of the money to the overseer had been refused?—No; your question was by the board; this was not by the board, nor by me, that I am aware of; I do not remember the circumstance being brought to my notice.

10544. What made you inquire of his wife?—I went in consequence of what was stated here.

10545. Have you seen the overseer himself, and asked him whether it was so or not?—No, I have not; it was said that he was not at home, and I waited there for some time.

10546. How long was that ago?—During the Easter recess.

10547. Have you not had opportunities of seeing that overseer on any occasion since?—I do not consider it a case that is worth my going at all about; I did not go purposely to see him then.

10548. Is it not a very important fact, if it be true, that overseers have paid money which they have been refused to be allowed afterwards?—I do not know what importance can be attached to it. If an overseer pays money against the law, and against his instructions, it does not appear to me to be an important thing that that money is lost.

10549. In this case you have admitted that this man Cole ought to have had relief, if it was a case of urgent necessity, and you have also admitted that it was one, and that the overseer should have relieved him?—I do not think I have admitted that.

10550. But you have not thought it necessary to inquire of this overseer whether he had paid money, and not been refunded since?—I have not thought it necessary.

10551. Mr. *Miles.*] When the man came to you for medical assistance for his wife, did he bring an overseer's note to you?—That was the case.

10552. What were the contents of that overseer's note?—As far as I am able to recollect them, it was merely saying John Cole's wife had been put to bed by a midwife, and required a doctor.

10553. Do you conceive that the relief of the poor is left to the overseer or to the relieving officer?—I conceive that in all cases of urgent necessity, as that was said to be, it lies with the overseer in the first instance, unless they reside in the same town in which I live.

10554. Is there not a direction that if the relief is given by the overseer, it shall immediately be reported to the relieving officer?—There is.

10555. Then may not a person acting as overseer so far mistake as to make the report before giving the relief, or was not that the case in this particular instance?—Such a thing might happen, but it was not the case in this instance; it was no report, it was a request.

10556. Should you not conceive, having that report of the overseer, in which he stated that Cole's wife had been put to bed by a woman and required medical assistance, that that was a case of such urgent necessity that you were bound yourself immediately to send the doctor, or to inquire into the case, with a view to giving relief?—I made inquiry as far as I considered it necessary.

10557. Of whom did you inquire?—Of the man, as to his circumstances; the man told me that he was in work, and I considered that being in work he was quite able, on his own account, to get that which he wanted from the parish.

10558. Do not you consider that the overseer's note, which you would have had in your possession before the board, the next week, would have been a sufficient justification to you immediately to send a doctor to the woman?—I think not; I had very little doubt about its being a case of necessity, so far as the woman's wanting a doctor, but the doubt was whether he was able to pay for it.

10559. Mr. *Scrope.*] Before you give relief in a case of urgent necessity, you are bound, are you not, to exercise your own judgment whether it is a case which, according to the principle of the present system, ought to be relieved?—Yes.

10560. If it is not such a case in your opinion, you are not bound by any opinion given by the overseer to relieve the case?—Certainly not.

10561. Supposing the overseer to have considered this case one of urgent necessity,

necessity, and which ought to be relieved, but yourself to have been of a contrary opinion, you think the duty prescribed to you is to act up to your own opinion, and not that of the overseer?—It would be so.

10562. And that was your reason for refusing the request of the overseer and exercising your own judgment in the refusal of relief in this case?—Yes, it was.

10563. Mr. *Hodges.*] Have you not already stated that your motive for refusal was, that you satisfied yourself that the man was in work, and therefore, being in work, was independent?—Yes, I considered he was capable of getting relief.

10564. Did you ascertain that he had continued in work, or might he not have just obtained work after having been for some time out of work?—I ascertained that fact that he was in constant work.

10565. Did you ascertain what wages he received?—I did.

10566. You do not think it your duty to inquire into the condition of the man, if you satisfy yourself that he is in work?—Not in the first instance; it is impossible that I can satisfy myself on every occasion regarding people who live at a distance; there must be some little time allowed for that; I cannot do that at the moment; this man wanted a doctor at the moment; I had no time at that moment to take all those things into consideration; I was obliged to act upon his own evidence.

10567. Mr. *Miles.*] Cole afterwards applied, having two children, one of four years and the other an infant, for assistance?—Yes.

10568. Did you visit that case at that time?—No, I think not.

10569. Do you ever visit any cases?—I do visit cases, but I saw no necessity for visiting this case; the case was well known; the man came and stated the case to the board himself.

10570. But though a man may be in the receipt of 10*s.* a week, may he not be of such dissolute habits himself as to render it very possible that if relief be refused to the child of four years old, or to his infant, either the infant or the child of four years old may perish from actual starvation?—Such a thing is possible, but it is not the case here.

10571. Then could you not have judged better from personal inspection what was the state of that man's ability to maintain his two children in his cottage, than the guardians of the poor, by possibility, could by merely looking at the dry question of the amount of his wages, and determining the case wholly upon that ground?—I think not; there is also the circumstance of his appearing before his guardian; he was better able to give information to the board than I should have been by any personal observation I could have made in his cottage.

10572. But, from the observations you have made, you seem to throw off the responsibility of visiting more upon the guardians of the parishes, and to conceive that that is a very small part of your duty?—No; I do not wish to throw the responsibility of visiting upon the guardians, but they are certainly better able to form a judgment of people who live in the village with them, than I am, even by visiting.

10573. But unless the guardian's attention is particularly called to the case of an individual who applies for relief, is it at all likely that he would visit the cottage and know the particular case?—No, it is not perhaps likely; at all events it would have been no part of the duty of the guardian.

10574. Is he a paid officer?—He is not.

10575. You are?—Yes.

10576. And you are paid for distributing relief to the whole of the poor of the union?—Yes.

10577. And it is your particular duty to inquire into particular cases, which come before the board?—Yes.

10578. Do you know whether this poor man, Cole, was obliged to have a nurse for his children?—Yes, he was.

10579. Do you know what he paid per week, for that nurse?—No; I dare say the board of guardians would have asked him that question when he was before the board.

10580. Were you present at the examination before the board?—Perhaps I was, and perhaps not; I am not always present at the examination.

10581. Mr. *Scrope.*] Had there been any previous consideration of this case by the board of guardians, before the application for the coffin?—No, there had not.

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10582. Had it been represented to you by any person, that the two children were starving, through the dissolute habits of this man, and his refusal to apply his wages to their relief?—No; this man is a very steady man, far from a dissolute character.

10583. Then you, having heard that he was a steady man, in the receipt of 10*s.* a week, constant, felt convinced that he could out of that find a coffin for his wife, and maintain his children?—Not find a coffin for his wife; I recommended, if I recollect right, that they should pay for the coffin; the expense had been incurred, and they were to decide whether it should be given as relief or as a loan, and they decided that it should be given as relief, and that money was paid by me.

10584. But you thought that he was able to suppor this child, and therefore did not visit the cottage?—No; I thought when the board of guardians had decided, it was done with; and therefore there was no necessity for making any fresh application.

10585. Mr. *Fielden.*] The next case which I wish to draw your attention to, is that of Mark Herbert, in 9291; his wife also died in child-bed, did she not?—No, she did not die in child-bed; I believe she died a few days afterwards, a week.

10586. *Chairman.*] Did she die in consequence of her confinement?—Yes, I believe she did.

10587. Mr. *Fielden.*] Was application made to you for a doctor, to attend this woman?—Yes.

10588. Did you refuse the application?—That was the same thing; the application was made with a note from the overseer, in the same way as Cole's.

10589. What was the ground for your refusal?—I had no business to receive a note from the overseer on that score; it was brought over by the woman's father, I think; some old man brought it over, and the man was not able to inform me of the circumstances; the application should be made to the overseer.

10590. Did you excuse yourself, because the man did not apply to you for the doctor?—No; if the man had applied, he might not have been able to succeed; but I should have obtained some knowledge of his circumstances.

10591. In the case of Cole, the man did apply?—Yes.

10592. There you have no fault to find with the regularity of the application?—No.

10593. In the case of Herbert, the father of the woman applied?—Yes; I believe he was the father of the woman.

10594. Was he not as near in relationship as the husband of the woman would have been?—No, I think not; I should object at any time to take the statement of a man's circumstances from a second party.

10595. Did you disbelieve that the woman was in distress, and wanted a doctor, when her father applied to you for one?—No, I did not disbelieve that she wanted a doctor; but I should have disbelieved any statement that the man made of the earnings of Herbert, if I had asked him; but I did not ask him.

10596. If you had given an order for the doctor, at what time would he have been able to attend, do you suppose?—I do not know; I do not exactly know the time of day at which he came; it was about five o'clock in the afternoon, I think; I cannot say at what hour the doctor might have gone.

10597. Had the father of the woman been waiting for you some time when he made the application?—I do not know; I did not ask how long he had been waiting.

10598. Do you know the day of the week on which the application was made?—On Saturday.

10599. Is Saturday one of the days on which you go out to the distant parishes to relieve the poor?—Yes.

10600. Suppose that the father of this woman was at Ampthill waiting for you, would he not state that on your return?—I do not know whether he would state it, and I do not know that he did state it.

10601. Have you any recollection of that circumstance?—No; if he had stated it it would not have made any difference in the nature of the claim.

10602. Did you take no pains at all to inquire of the father of Herbert's wife what condition she was in, and the necessity there was for relief by sending a doctor?—I did not; I should not consider it my duty to take any statement from that man, when the head of the family did not choose to make the application himself.

Mr. *John Marshall.*

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10603. What did you direct him to do?—Directed him to go back to the overseer, and tell him I could have nothing to do with it.

10604. Did he do so?—I do not know; I suppose he did; it seems very likely that he did.

10605. Did Herbert himself see you on the following day?—Yes.

10606. On your way to church?—Yes.

10607. What conversation passed between you and Herbert on that occasion?—Herbert met me and asked me for an order for a doctor; I said, "Why did you not come yesterday?" he said, "Because I was at work;" "Then," said I, "I suppose this is one of your idle days; but it is not one of mine;" then I said, "I will go over and speak to Mr. Chapman about it;" and he said, "Mr. Chapman does want to see you;" and I went to Mr. Chapman, and Mr. Chapman agreed, rather than break into the rule of not giving relief to men who are able to pay for it, to go on the man's own account.

10608. What rule are you alluding to?—The rule of not giving relief to a person who does not need it, who has it in his power to provide it on his own account.

10609. Is that a written rule?—That is the spirit of the new law.

10610. When you speak of a rule, you have a reference to something which has been recorded somewhere, have you not?—I speak of the Act altogether; I consider the man not to be pauperised, or not in a condition to become a pauper.

10611. You have before spoken of a resolution having been passed at the board relative to cases of this sort?—I am not aware of any resolution that has been passed at the board relative to cases of this sort.

10612. You are quite certain that you have said nothing about any resolution being passed by the board, which should guide you in cases like this?—I have no recollection of it.

10613. Do you know what number of family Herbert had at the time?—He had one child, I believe, besides the one that was then born.

10614. And you believe that he was at work on the Saturday?—I believe so, from the man's own statement; he told me so himself.

10615. And you thought, when he gave you that statement on the Sunday, that it was true, did you not?—I did.

10616. Did you blame him for being at work, because he did not come to you for a doctor?—No, I did not blame him for not leaving his work, but I blamed him for sending a second person.

10617. He could not both be at his work and come to you at the same time?—Then I could not take the evidence of second parties in that way.

10618. You thought yourself perfectly justified in refusing the application of the pauper, when you afterwards knew that the man was at work?—Yes; and I think so still, that I was perfectly justified in refusing both.

10619. Had Herbert only one child?—He had only one child besides that just born, which could not be any expense in the way of eating.

10620. Mr. *Scrope.*] Was this immediately after the harvest?—Very shortly after the harvest.

10621. Do you think it probable that he might have some of his harvest-money remaining, and be able to procure a doctor through that means?—Yes.

10622. Besides being in the receipt of weekly wages?—Yes; he told me that he was in the receipt of weekly wages; and another thing is, I did not consider that those were cases of sudden and urgent necessity; they are not sudden even if they are urgent; they are cases which may be looked for, and which ought to be provided against, the confinement of the wife.

10623. When an application is made to you in a case of sudden and urgent necessity, requiring medical attendance, do you not think it your duty to examine, not merely whether a medical attendant is required, but also whether the person is in such circumstances that he can provide that attendance for himself?—I do.

10624. But if, to the best of your judgment, he is in circumstances to provide it for himself, it becomes your duty, as relieving officer, to refuse him, and to advise him to employ a doctor on his own account?—Yes, that was the course I pursued on that occasion.

10625. Mr. *Miles.*] Was a woman midwife in attendance on Herbert's wife?—I think so.

10626. Then he had taken the precautions which labourers usually take before the confinement of their wives?—Yes.

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10627. In both cases, that of Herbert and that of Cole, you received a note from the overseer of each parish, who must have been more fully acquainted with the case than yourself; and in both cases, after the reception of this notice, you refused giving a medical order?—Yes, because they should have given it, if there was any necessity; I am not bound to take orders from overseers, nor to act upon their suggestions.

10628. Is there any understanding in the Ampthill Union with the surgeon, Mr. Chapman, that in case of applications for immediate medical relief, he may go and visit it without an order, either from yourself or the overseer?—No, I think not.

10629. *Chairman.*] You are aware that it has been said in question 9304, and the following questions, where the circumstances of this family are described, that at the time of making this application they were assisted by the clergyman of the parish?—Yes.

10630. Are you aware that it has been stated that the clergyman attended the wife of Mark Herbert three days before she died, and gave her money, and offered her any food or any comfort that his house could supply?—Yes; I heard that before it was stated by Mr. Pearce to the Committee.

10631. Are you aware that she had a nurse in constant attendance upon her, and that the man was at that time in full work, at 9*s.* a week, and had but one child dependent upon him?—I am aware of that; when I went to Mr. Chapman on the Sunday, Mr. Chapman told me that he had been himself, or that he had sent his assistant to see the woman.

10632. Are you aware that the nurse that was in attendance was paid for by the union?—Yes.

10633. Mr. *Miles.*] But you were not aware of those circumstances at the time you refused the relief?—At the time I refused him, I was aware that all had been done for the wife that was necessary; that Mr. Chapman had seen her, or that he had sent somebody under his directions to see her.

10634. Had he made any application to Mr. Chapman previously to your refusing him a medical order?—It seems he had.

10635. Mr. *Fielden.*] At the time the father of Herbert made the application, did you know of these things?—No.

10636. How did you become acquainted with them afterwards?—In conversation with Mr. Chapman himself.

10637. Mr. Chapman did for this woman what you would not give him an order for him to do?—It seems he did.

10638. Then Mr. Chapman did think that the woman was deserving attention, though you did not?—Mr. Chapman expected to get payment for it; that made a very different case of it.

10639. Was there not another individual who afforded assistance to this man, which has been given in evidence before this Committee, Mr. Pearce's brother?—That is the person I have been speaking of.

10640. Did not Mr. Pearce's brother think that she was an object deserving attention and relief?—He is the clergyman of the parish.

10641. Notwithstanding both the clergyman of the parish and the doctor thought that he was deserving of relief, you did not know that he was, and refused him relief?—We have not in evidence that the clergyman thought him deserving of attention; he was attending the woman in his spiritual capacity, as a clergyman, attending a woman whom he expected was dangerously ill.

10642. Have we not in evidence that Mr. Pearce's brother did furnish relief to this woman when in distress?—Yes.

10643. Before she was confined?—I do not know whether it was before she was confined.

10644. After the death of this woman a nurse was paid for, was she not?—No, not after the death of the woman.

10645. When?—Before.

10646. When was the order made for her to have a nurse?—There was a nurse already in; I was told that there was a nurse with her, and I was applied to to ask whether I would pay for it, and I told them I would.

10647. Whom were you told that by, that there was a nurse with her?—By somebody who applied to me; I cannot call to mind who it was, but I have ascertained since that there was a nurse from the preceding Thursday, and this was the Monday, when the application was made to me; and I agreed that the

nurse

nurse should be paid for from the day she went, and she was paid till the following Thursday, which made a week.

10648. When was Mark Herbert's wife confined?—On the Thursday.

10649. On the Saturday application was made to you for a doctor by the father?—Yes.

10650. On the Sunday the application was renewed by the husband?—Yes.

10651. And on the Monday you ordered the nurse?—Yes.

10652. Then on the Monday you thought something was necessary to be done, though you had not thought any thing necessary to be done on the Saturday?—No; it was the report of the doctor which showed to me that she required a nurse.

10653. The report of the doctor did convince you, though the statement of the father and the husband did not convince you of it at all?—The statement of the father and husband did not convince me of the circumstances of the husband, but the statement of the doctor showed me at once that there was a necessity for a doctor and a necessity for a nurse.

10654. Do you know what the statement of the doctor was?—He told me that she was very ill and required a nurse.

10655. When did he tell you that?—On the Sunday, and that she had got a nurse, and that nurse he desired to remain.

10656. Did he tell you that she was very dangerously ill, and not likely to recover?—I believe he did.

10657. And when the woman's life was gone, then you acted as if you had some care for her, did you?—When the woman's life was gone, I had nothing further to do with her.

10658. The woman died on the Wednesday, did she not?—Yes.

10659. In the conversation you had with Mr. Chapman, did he give you any expectation that the woman would recover?—He did not hold out to me any hopes of the woman recovering, nor did he express any fears that she would not; at all events, I recollect that he said she was very ill.

10660. But, at all events, an order was made on Monday for a nurse?—Yes; and on Sunday I gave the order for him to attend, when I found that the man's circumstances would not meet the expense. In the first place, she required a dozen of leeches, which the man said they had no power to pay for; it was that which constituted, in my opinion, destitution, and I gave him an order.

10661. The circumstance of his requiring a dozen leeches convinced you that he was not able to supply them?—No, it did not convince me; the man told me he was not able to pay for it, and I thought while we were disputing about it, the woman might be suffering from want of them.

10662. But no such considerations as those entered your mind on the Saturday?—No, they did not; because I had not an opportunity of knowing the circumstances.

10663. You knew she was confined in child-bed?—Yes, but I did not know how far the husband could provide medical attendance. I consider, in cases of child-bed, that the husband ought to provide medical attendance, if he is able, and apply to the parish as the last resource.

10664. Did he not apply to the parish, as the last resource?—No, it does not appear, on his evidence, that he applied to Mr. Chapman to assist her, but came first to the parish.

10665. Mr. Pearce stated in his evidence, that this Herbert was a member of the benefit club at Silsoe?—Yes; that would give medical relief to himself only.

10666. Did not that show that he had some providential care about him, in trying to prepare himself against what he might want in future life?—Yes, as regards himself.

10667. Would not his wife and family constitute a part of himself in this case?—Yes, but the wife's earnings might have enabled her to become a member of a medical club.

10668. Do you know that he could spare the means of paying for a benefit club for himself and for his wife?—I see no reason why he should not; people with much larger families than this have done it. There are people with six, seven and eight children, themselves in benefit clubs, and the whole family in medical clubs.

10669. What are the earnings of Mark Herbert?—They say 9 *s.*

10670. What do you say; have you made inquiry?—I have not, but at all events it must be as much as that.

10671. You have not thought it necessary to make inquiries into that in order to judge whether he is deserving of relief or not?—No.

 10672. *Chairman.*]

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10672. *Chairman.*] When you say you do not consider it necessary to inquire into the earnings of a man, in order to judge whether he need relief, do you not, when a man comes and states that he is in urgent necessity, endeavour to ascertain whether that is a true statement?—Yes; but I asked the man whether he was in work, and he said he was; for Mr. Boston, I think; and I concluded that he was working at the ordinary wages of the labourers.

10673. When you say that you did not make inquiry in this particular instance, is it that you mean, that, understanding the man to be at work as a farmer's labourer, and knowing the farmer, you took it for granted that he was receiving the usual wages of a farmer's labourer?—It is so.

10674. Mr. *Scrope.*] Is not this the state of the case; that on the Saturday you refused the relief, because the application was made by an improper party, and because the overseer, who sent you the note, and who was better cognizant of the facts of the case than yourself, could have given an order himself if he had thought proper?—Yes.

10675. On the Sunday you refused relief, because you thought, from your inquiries of the man, that he was fully capable to provide it for himself, and you proved your disposition to relieve him by going to Mr. Chapman, and persuading him to go on his own account?—Yes.

10676. Therefore, on the Sunday you went as far as your duty permitted you in procuring medical assistance for him?—Yes.

10677. Mr. *Miles.*] Had not Mr. Chapman's assistant attended this woman before you had any conversation with Mr. Chapman about it?—Yes.

10678. And it was from the information that Mr. Chapman obtained from the assistant, and not from any information that he obtained from you, that Mr. Chapman went on the Sunday morning to see the woman?—Yes.

10679. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have stated, in a former part of your evidence, that you do not require that the furniture of the poor people making application for relief should be sold and disposed of before relief be afforded, have you not?—I have.

10680. Enoch Keep was a man that was found dead in the road, upon whom an inquest was held?—Yes.

10681. Was he going out with a shirt for the purpose of obtaining bread for it?—I think not; the son of Mr. Webb (who has been quoted more than once or twice in the evidence) told Mr. Pearce that Enoch Keep was going out to purchase butter and cheese at Cranfield, and that when he was found he had 1*s.* 6*d.* in his pocket, and bread he had in the house.

10682. Who has told you that story?—The son of Mr. Webb told it to Mr. Pearce; Mr. Pearce told me so at Westoning on Saturday last.

10683. Then Mr. Pearce and Mr. Webb will be able to confirm your testimony?—Mr. Pearce can confirm my testimony that he told me so, and that the son of Mr. Webb told him so, but whether that is exactly the fact I am not prepared to say, but I think it very likely; it does not appear to me very likely that the man could have died from want of food, situated as he was.

10684. Enoch Keep was an old man, was he not?—Yes, he was.

10685. Had he been 20 years at service in one place?—That I do not know; the man never came under my notice but once; he belonged to that part of the union which I did not pay at that time; and I never knew the man till he made application to the board, and was refused in consequence of having those houses.

10686. Mr. *Wakley.*] Can you explain these circumstances; I find an entry here at page 77, of the minute-book, No. 2, "13th October 1836; James Harborne and George Leggett, of Shitlington, able-bodied labourers in employment, having had notice to quit parish tenements, and not being able to procure lodgings, applied, by their wives, for an order for the workhouse, but the same was refused; the husbands being in employment, and the wives and children not being allowed to come into the workhouse without the husbands;" do you remember that case?—No, I have no recollection particularly of the circumstance; but I remember that the ground upon which the board refused was, that they could not furnish houses; and the men being in employment, it was their business to look out for other houses.

10687. It says here, that they had notice to quit parish tenements; what parish did they belong to?—Shitlington parish.

10688. Notice to quit had come from the parish authorities?—No doubt of that.

10689. It states, also, that the parties could not procure lodgings; and in consequence of their not being able to procure lodgings, and having had notice to quit the parochial tenements, they asked leave to come into the workhouse?—The wives and families asked.

10690. Were the husbands offered to go in also?—I do not know, but I should suppose not.

10691. No application was made to you?—No; I should think the chairman of the board would be likely to know much more of them than I do; it would be fresh in his recollection.

10692. Mr. *Fielden.*] In the case of Keep, this question was put to you, which you answer as follows, in 9457: "Would you not say, in the case of an old man, that it is a severe alternative to put him to, to sell his furniture before relief is given him;" and your answer is, "That would depend in some measure upon what sort of furniture he had; if it was necessary furniture, I should say that it would be hard; but if the man had any thing beyond that—he had a clock in his house at that time, a good clock, which was not necessary." Did you induce the man to believe, on that occasion, that he was to sell his clock before he could obtain any relief?—Not a word passed between me and the man on the subject of the clock.

10693. Do you know that the clock was his?—No, I do not.

10694. You know that he had a clock in his house?—Yes.

10695. How did you know that?—By seeing it.

10696. Did you go into the house?—I did not go particularly to the house, but I happened to be near, and heard the clock tick, and looked in; whether it was that I went to see that Keep, or the younger man, wanted relief, I cannot say, but I heard it tick.

10697. When was it; at the time that Keep was living?—Yes.

10698. How do you know it was a good clock?—When I say it was a good clock, I mean a good-looking clock; I am not a judge of the article.

10699. It is true that Keep died; you do not dispute that fact?—Yes, he died, there is no doubt of that.

10700. He had been refused relief by the parish officers, though he was a very old man?—By the board of guardians he had.

10701. And by you too?—No.

10702. Did he never apply to you for relief?—No.

10703. How did he get to the board?—In that way he applied to me, certainly.

10704. *Chairman.*] He applied to you to have his name put down in the application-book?—Yes.

10705. Mr. *Scrope.*] The old men whom you do relieve die as well as those you do not?—Yes, we have had a great many die.

10706. Have you any reason to believe that he could not have sold his house?—I have not, I believe he could have sold it; that he could have raised money upon it.

10707. Mr. *Fielden.*] How do you know?—Because it is often done. I know there are plenty of labourers who have not houses, and they would be glad to give him a trifle to go and live in that house, even supposing it could not be sold.

10708. Would they have given a trifle to go and live with him under that roof, or would he have had to let that house?—It was too large a house for him.

10709. Did no one live with him?—I think not.

10710. Are you quite sure?—I am not quite sure, but I think not; that part of the house which he owned he lived in by himself, I think, and his son's is totally distinct.

10711. Had he nobody to cook his victuals?—I dare say he had.

10712. Who did it?—I do not know; I did not inquire into his case enough to know; the guardians of the parish were there, and they knew enough of the circumstances to convince the board of guardians.

10713. Do you know that a son lived in the house with Enoch Keep?—No, I was not aware of it.

10714. You have not thought it your duty to make any particular inquiry, though this man died, as it was said, of want, and a coroner's jury sat upon him?—The coroner's jury did not say that he died of want.

10715. What did the jury say upon it?—They returned a verdict of natural death, I think.

THIRTY-SECOND REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
16 *May* 1838.

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THIRTY-THIRD

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
18 *May* 1838.

405.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the RELIEF of the POOR under the Orders and Regulations issued by the COMMISSIONERS appointed under the Provisions of the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT; and who were empowered to report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them from time to time to THE HOUSE;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

18 *May* 1838.

WITNESS.

George Pearse, Esq.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Veneris, 18° *die Maii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Langdale.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Hodges.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

George Pearse, Esq., again called in; and further Examined.

G. Pearse, Esq.

18 May 1838.

10716. *Chairman.*] I RECEIVED a letter from you, dated the 15th of this month, stating that you had met with some interruption in the prosecution of those inquiries which you were good enough to undertake to make with reference to a list of paupers that had been put in evidence respecting the parish of Westoning; be so good as to describe the nature of the interruptions which you met with, and why you were unable to continue your inquiries upon that subject?—Having been deputed by the Committee to investigate those tabular statements put in by Mr. Turner, I commenced proceedings on Saturday, Mr. Marshall assisting me, and we got on pretty well in ascertaining the earnings and outgoings of certain families; we could not get perfect answers, but we approached, perhaps, near the truth, in most instances. On Tuesday I renewed my inquiries amongst the people, and then I found very great difficulty in obtaining answers; the people were very unwilling to state their earnings; and in many instances I was insulted.

10717. Did the people assign any reason for not answering you on the Tuesday in the same manner that they had seemed disposed to do on the Saturday?—They told me that they did not consider me as friendly to their interests; that they considered me as not friendly to the poor, and that I was getting up a case against them; and in one instance, a man told me, "I know your object in coming to me; it is that you may upset the statements made by those gentlemen;" his name was Richard Pedder.

10718. Did you go to many persons?—I went to several; one man whom I addressed, folded his arms and said, "I will hold no conversation with you, sir."

10719. Did he give any reason for refusing to do so?—No; I stated my object, which was to ascertain the truth of certain statements which had been put in; I have seen the man a second time since; I saw him at a late hour last night, but he was still mute; he said he did not know what all this meant; there was something wrong going forward, or why should we be so inquisitive.

10720. To what do you attribute the difference in the manners of the people on Tuesday from their manners on the Saturday?—I fancied that it had been produced by a visit of Mr. Turner to the parish of Westoning; but I have no evidence of the fact, except that he was there, and spoke to one or two persons there; I thought his visit produced very considerable excitement.

10721. At all events, did you find that there was a marked difference in the manners of the people on Tuesday as compared with their manners on Saturday; and did you ascertain, in point of fact, that Mr. Turner had been down to the parish in the interval between the two days?—I ascertained that he had been there, and I noticed a very marked difference in the behaviour of the people towards me; it was most disrespectful and offensive.

10722. Did you hear any thing stated as the reason for the change?—No; Mr. Turner spoke, I understand, to a man of the name of Thomas Bunker, whose case has been before the Committee, and told him, as I understand, that

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an untruth, or asked him, if an untruth had not been told respecting his earnings; that it had been stated in evidence that he had 2*s.* a week for shaving the people; that was a little circumstance, I believe, mentioned by Mr. Marshall.

10723. He was called the village-barber?—Yes; there was another person, I understood, that had been communicated with, but I cannot state what passed; Mr. Turner's visit was paid during church-time on Sunday, and I am not aware that it was a lengthened visit, but his presence there was calculated to produce excitement, and I experienced a marked change in the behaviour of the people between Saturday and Tuesday.

10724. That being the case, I am afraid that we can hardly ask you to continue the inquiries you were good enough to undertake?—I found it utterly impossible to proceed; it was the case with one or two of the men that I spoke to, that I could not get any thing from them; but the principal difficulty was with the women.

10725. Mr. *Hodges.*] Previously to the Sunday, will you inform the Committee how many men you spoke to?—They were principally the women whom I saw; and my first object was to ascertain the earnings of the family.

10726. You commenced your inquiry on the Saturday?—Yes.

10727. Did you find any difficulty with the women in their not giving the answers fairly and ingenuously in the course of that day?—A little; but I was respectfully received every where, and received a respectful answer in every case.

10728. But a respectful answer and a full answer to a question are different things; you did not get the information that you would wish to get on the Saturday?—I have said, that it was not so full in every instance as I could have wished, but that it was near enough to the truth for me to have got data by which to test the statements which had been made.

10729. You said you were accompanied by the relieving officer?—I was; and I thought it discouraged the women from speaking out when they were stating their earnings, and, taking that view of it, and, moreover, other unpleasant circumstances occurring in the course of my visit, I took the liberty of writing to Mr. Fielden, which perhaps I was wrong in doing, to say that I should carry on the inquiries alone henceforward; and on Tuesday I resumed my inquiries alone.

10730. Do you not think it probable that your having been accompanied by the relieving officer in the first instance might have given an impression throughout that parish disadvantageous to the inquiry you were desirous of making?—I think that it was injudicious, his accompanying me, and prejudicial to the inquiry.

10731. Might not that difficulty which you found afterwards, on the Tuesday following, be quite as much attributable to that original mistake as to any difficulty arising from the visit of Mr. Turner, or any body else?—I do not think that that would have changed their conduct to personal disrespect and insult.

10732. Did any of them name Mr. Turner to you?—They did not; Mr. Turner has an agent there who is resident on the spot, but I cannot speak to how he may communicate with the people; he has collected a great deal of information for Mr. Turner, and he is in habits of communication with the people there; I can say no more.

10733. Then it is the inference of your own mind that it was attributable to Mr. Turner, rather than the mistake you committed originally in taking Mr. Marshall with you, that you met with that incivility?—I admit that that was a wrong step, but it was not my act; Mr. Marshall was appointed to assist me; I understood it to be the instruction of the Committee.

10734. Mr. *Wakley.*] Did you object to Mr. Marshall accompanying you?—I did not object, but I did not understand that he would accompany me.

10735. By whom did Mr. Marshall say that he was directed to attend you?—I did not ask him, but something passed with the Committee, and I understood it to be the wish of the Committee, that he should assist me, but I do not know to what extent.

10736. You say you got on pretty well on the Saturday; how many cases did you investigate on that day?—Twenty or twenty-one.

10737. Are they cases of persons who are mentioned in the tables?—All of them.

10738. Will you favour the Committee with the result of your investigation of those cases?—Mr. Marshall has drawn out a tabular statement of them, I have not myself; Mr. Marshall took down the information in writing, and I can produce that to the Committee.

10739. Have you examined that tabular statement?—I have not myself, at present.

10740. Will you be kind enough to look it over?—I cannot to-day; I shall be prepared to produce it at the next meeting, but I gave up the thing in consequence of what had passed, finding such an interruption to the inquiries which I was making.

10741. When you say that there was such a difference in the conduct of the people towards you, do you mean to say that the persons who were civil to you on the Saturday, and who received you well and respectfully on that occasion, offered you personal insults or were in any way personally disrespectful to you on the Tuesday?—They were a different set of people; I did not go back to the same.

10742. Mr. *Hodges*.] Were they in the same parish?—Yes.

10743. Have you the names of those persons who refused to give you information and behaved improperly?—I could name some, William Lowens.

10744. *Chairman*.] Should you, upon seeing the statement which has been made out by Mr. Marshall, be able to say whether the insertions of the particulars correspond with the information you received, or would it require some little consideration to enable you to do so?—I think I could do so in a short time, but not at the instant.

10745. Mr. *Wakley*.] Do you mean that you examined the parties in question, and made any written memoranda at the time?—I saw the written memorandum Mr. Marshall made; while he stood by I put certain questions to the parties, with a view to test the matter, and Mr. Marshall took down the answers, and I stood by his side and looked over them; my inquiries were not completed on the Saturday; I meant, in addition to inquiring into the earnings of the women and children, to have seen the men themselves, all of them, and their employers, to have got it confirmed by the employers; therefore, I should say that that table would not be accurate without further inquiry; I wished to ascertain the truth.

10746. *Chairman*.] The particulars which you took down on Saturday would be accurate, as far as they went?—As far as they went, and as far as I could rely upon it; I meant to get all the information confirmed by the employers.

10747. Those inquiries were principally with relation to the earnings of the wives and families?—Yes.

10748. To that point the table would enable you to speak?—Yes, I think so.

10749. Mr. *Fielden*.] Will you give the names of the persons from whom you received insult in your visit on Tuesday?—James Brinkley was most offensive in manner to me; he is a man who travels with a basket, and who refused to answer my questions; and Mrs. George King told me that she thought I was not friendly to the poor, and that I should answer for it at the day of judgment.

10750. Any others?—William Lowens, who refused to answer the inquiries; Mrs. Crawley Bonner; she is a shopkeeper; Mrs. John King; I do not know that I could state any more off-hand; but I found a difficulty in getting answers; the young women refused to answer.

10751. You have mentioned five who did not treat you with respect?—Yes; or who were not disposed to answer the questions.

10752. What questions did you put to them?—As to their earnings, and I requested answers to certain queries which I held in my hand.

10753. Have you the queries with you?—I have.

10754. Will you read them?—"The name of the labourer; his age; the age of the wife; the names and ages of the children living with their parents; work employed on in 1837; number of weeks employed, exclusive of hay-time and harvest; rate of wages per week, exclusive of the same; earnings in hay-time and harvest; estimated produce of garden allotment, and other sources of income not specified; earnings of wife and children; gleanings, value of; allowance from parish; total income of labourer and family; outgoings for rent, rate and fuel; outgoings for benefit, medical and clothing clubs;" the questions that follow, of course, I did not put, inasmuch as the former questions would furnish data for the latter ones: "net income applicable to food, soap, clothing and other necessaries; net income for 1834, as shown in the tabular statement;

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increase of income as compared with 1834; decrease of income as compared with 1834; and, remarks."

10755. Has the opposition which you have met with in making these inquiries made it altogether impracticable to obtain that information from those labourers and their families?—I conceive that it has quite.

10756. Why?—Because they refused to answer me in so many instances; and as I passed from house to house, the women were collecting and jeering me; and I met with that sort of treatment that no gentleman could bear with it.

10757. The reason they assigned was, that they considered you an enemy to the poor?—That was noticed by two or three.

10758. Some of them made that observation?—Yes; and one of them did more, and said that it was difficult to know their foes from their friends; and he rather thought I was a foe.

10759. Does that raise an insuperable difficulty in getting at the information that you sought?—Added to the men's positive refusal to give the information which I sought, it does.

10760. In every one of the five cases you have named?—There were other instances, which I cannot call to mind, where refusals were given.

10761. But in every one of the cases you have named, did they refuse individually to answer those queries which you have read, and which you say you put?—Not every individual question; but the question with respect to their earnings, certainly; the women I speak of, and two men, I believe, I have also spoken of.

10762. Did any of those men whom you saw tell you that Mr. Turner had been down amongst them?—One man told me that Mr. Turner had been down.

10763. Who was that?—The son of Thomas Bunker, who said he was shocked that such a wicked lie should have been told by Mr. Marshall about his father, it having been stated that the man got 2*s.* a week for shaving.

10764. Did the man deny the fact, that his father had been getting 2*s.* a week by shaving?—He did, and I saw the old man himself afterwards, who also denied it.

10765. Do you believe that the old man and his son were correct when they made that denial?—I believe perfectly so.

10766. You think the old man did not receive 2*s.* a week?—I believe that he did not.

10767. Then you believe that the statement that Mr. Marshall received was not true?—The two, the father and son, shave together, and, therefore, it is divided profit, consequently that which might be attributed to one is a divided concern, the son taking the larger part.

10768. You are of opinion that the statement given by Mr. Marshall, of the receipts of that man for shaving is not true?—I believe that part is not true, but I will take the responsibility upon myself, for I believe I furnished that circumstance to Mr. Marshall, and I have misinformed Mr. Marshall.

10769. Mr. Marshall has misinformed the Committee, and on the information he received from you?—Yes, I have been instrumental in doing it.

10770. What was your reason for informing Mr. Marshall that the man received 2*s.* a week for shaving?—I received that information.

10771. Whom did you receive it from?—I heard it in Westoning.

10772. *Chairman.*] To what extent do you believe that information to have been inaccurate, upon subsequent inquiry?—I suppose about 9*d.* too much, I imagine so; am I to speak of the old man, or of the two together?

10773. Speak of the earnings of the two together?—I will give the old man's information, which was, that he shaved five men weekly, at 2*s.* 6*d.* each, per annum, and that he might, by odd jobs, pick up about 3*d.* or 4*d.* a week besides.

10774. What did the young man say?—He said his was rather a better business than his father's, but he could not speak exactly to it.

10775. You were going to make some observation with regard to yesterday?—I wished to make the experiment, whether in a part of the village which had not been visited by Mr. Turner, where his movements, perhaps, were not known any thing of, excitement existed there, and I found the same unwillingness to answer questions as to earnings, but a very different manner, and a very respectful reception, but a determination not to answer questions as to earnings.

10776. Mr. *Fielden.*] Was it not an important mistake to make in conveying to the Committee an erroneous statement to the amount of 9*d.* in 2*s.*, in the case of a poor

a poor man, whose case had been represented before this Committee?—There is that mistake. *G. Pearse*, Esq. 18 May 1838.

10777. The earnings of many of the poor people of Bedfordshire, you are aware, are very small?—Yes, compared, perhaps, with the manufacturing districts, they may be.

10778. Are they not small, compared with what is necessary to supply them with food, clothing and shelter?—I am not aware that they are.

10779. Have they all abundance of those things in Bedfordshire?—They may not have a superfluity, but they enjoy the comforts of life.

10780. Do you mean to say that the labouring people of Bedfordshire have an ample sufficiency of food, clothing, and suitable dwelling-houses to live in?—I believe the well-conducted have, for the most part.

10781. Do you know a labouring man who is honest and of good character in Bedfordshire, and who is diligent in his occupation, who does not receive an ample supply of those things?—I can name three or four families living near me in my own parish, their daily labour procuring for them only 9*s.* a week, having families to maintain, their families well brought up, and the children well clothed, and the men's earnings not exceeding 9*s.* a week; having families of four or five children, under nine, to maintain, therefore the income from the children can be but small, but they are exceedingly well-conducted men, and their habitations seem very comfortable.

10782. That is not an answer to my question; do you know no man in Bedfordshire but what has an ample supply of those things, who is of good character and of industrious habits?—There were many such last winter, I believe.

10783. Are there not any such now;—I do not think there are; I think they are in pretty full employment now.

10784. But employment without adequate wages will not furnish them with a sufficient supply of those things, will it?—I take it for granted that it will not, without adequate wages.

10785. Do you consider 9*s.* a week for a man and his wife and five children to be adequate wages to provide them with the proper supply of those things?—During a large proportion of the year the labouring population work by the great in agricultural districts; and so, tracing them through the year, the average amount of their earnings is much more considerable than 9*s.* a week.

10786. *Chairman.*] When you speak of the earnings of a man and his wife and five children, are not the wife and five children able to add to those earnings?—It depends upon the ages of the children; I mentioned three families, the children being under nine, whose names I should be happy to give.

10787. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have not told the Committee the name of this individual who stated that Bunker could earn 2*s.* a week by shaving; will you state the name of that individual?—I received information with respect to the earnings of that person.

10788. *Chairman.*] You take it upon yourself, and the inaccuracy upon yourself?—Entirely so; if there is any misrepresentation, I take the entire responsibility of it upon myself.

10789. You admit that there is an inaccuracy to that extent?—Yes, but I did not know it until last night.

10790. Mr. *Fielden.*] If you have been misinformed on that point, may you not have been misinformed on other points on which you have given evidence to this Committee?—A great deal of my information I had by word of mouth from the parties themselves; this I had not by word of mouth from the party.

10791. In the case of Odell, you stated him to be employed by your brother at 12*s.* a week?—At that time he was employed by him at that rate of wages per day.

10792. But in addition to stating that he was employed by your brother at 12*s.*, you say, "he has left him to go to better work; we presume that it was so; my brother would have continued him on, but he wished to go; it might have been a more permanent job; I cannot say;" that is your answer?—Yes.

10793. Did Odell himself tell you that he was receiving 12*s.* a week?—His wife told me that his pay whenever he worked for my brother was 12*s.* a week; that he was usually paid at that rate; that, when my brother employed him,

him, he usually got 12*s.* a week, and she thought he would have the same; he was then employed by my brother.

10794. Was he employed at task-work, or by the week?—By the day for a portion of the week, perhaps.

10795. How long was he employed by your brother?—For a few days.

10796. Was he not employed one whole week?—I do not know that he was.

10797. Do you know that he was not?—I know nothing about it, as to the time.

10798. Did you intend to represent to the Committee that he was receiving wages of 12*s.* a week?—I understood it to be the case at that time.

10799. Would you say that he was receiving 12*s.* a week if he was not receiving that for even one week?—At that rate, I meant; that would be 2*s.* a day.

10800. Do you wish to qualify it in that form?—I did not mean to convey that he was for weeks employed by my brother.

10801. Did you wish to represent to the Committee that this man, instead of receiving 8*s.* a week wages, was able to obtain 12*s.* a week wages?—I meant to convey the information that at that time he was in work, at the rate of 12*s.* a week.

10802. What time was that?—At the time I gave my evidence, I think, he was employed by him.

10803. Might it not be true that he was employed for a few days by your brother, at 12*s.* a week, and at the time he gave the information to Mr. Turner be receiving only 8*s.* a week?—He might be receiving no more than 8*s.*, and I did not intend to convey a different statement.

10804. You did not wish to convey to the Committee that he was receiving 12*s.* a week, and by that throw discredit upon Mr. Turner's total?—I meant to convey the notion that, when my brother did not employ him, he had an employment to fall back upon, at 8*s.* a week; I meant to speak to his case on that point.

10805. Did you not add, that he had left your brother, and you believed he had gone to a better job?—That was the inference; I saw the man yesterday, and learned that his wages are not improved, that he gets only 8*s.* a week, but it is a more permanent job.

10806. Then the inference which you stated would be drawn would be a false inference, as regards the fact, would it not?—I have stated the plain facts to the Committee.

10807. Did you, in your answer given on a former day, wish to convey to the Committee an opinion that Odell could obtain 12*s.* a week wages?—Not permanently.

10808. But what was it that you wished the Committee to infer from that statement; that he had received 12*s.* a week from your brother?—That, being in the receipt of wages after the rate of 12*s.* a week, he had left his service to go to another, and I inferred that it was a better situation, from the circumstance of his leaving the first.

10809. Did you infer that he would obtain higher wages in that better situation?—That was the idea I had; I expressed my own opinion.

10810. Then it was fair on the part of the Committee to take the idea which you had, and which you wished to convey, that he could obtain 12*s.* a week wages?—The Committee would take their own impression from the evidence.

10811. Would it not be fair on the part of the Committee to draw that inference from what you said?—I supposed myself that he had bettered his situation.

10812. This morning you have stated to the Commitee that Mr. Turner has an agent in Westoning?—I understood that there was a person there that he was in communication with, and who had furnished information to him.

10813. A person who is agent to Mr. Turner?—I understood that he had acted in that capacity, that is, in furnishing information.

10814. Who is that individual who is agent for Mr. Turner?—I have been informed that his name is Biggs.

10815. Who gave you that information?—I think you will find it stated in the evidence I put in, with respect to Bonner's wages; it was stated by a gentleman in Westoning that Mr. Biggs was in communication with Mr. Turner; that was what I understood generally, that Mr. Biggs is in communication with Mr. Turner.

10816. Who

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10816. Who is Mr. Biggs?—He is a schoolmaster living in the parish of Westoning.

10817. Is he a respectable individual?—I know very little about him.

10818. How far do you live from him?—A mile and a half.

10819. How long have you lived within a mile and a half of Mr. Biggs?—I do not know how long Mr. Biggs has been in Westoning; he has not been very long resident there.

10820. Do you know how long you have lived within a mile and a half of Mr. Biggs?—I cannot say; I cannot know how long he has been at Westoning.

10821. Have you lived within a mile and a half of him for a great many years?—I have lived within a mile and a half of Westoning upwards of 18 years.

10822. Can you give any idea at all how long Mr. Biggs has been at Westoning?—I cannot.

10823. But he is a schoolmaster at Westoning?—I understand he is.

10824. Has he many scholars?—I cannot speak to that, I do not know how many.

10825. You do not know whether he is respectable or not, in the occupation in which he is engaged?—I know nothing about Mr. Biggs.

10826. Do you know any thing disreputable of Mr. Biggs?—I do not.

10827. Have you ever heard any thing objectionable stated, with respect to Mr. Biggs' character as a schoolmaster, or as a resident in Westoning?—Not as a schoolmaster.

10828. Or as a resident of Westoning?—I heard that he had charge of the parish books, and that he availed himself of that opportunity to give information, and that the farmers had complained a little of it.

10829. What information did he avail himself of the opportunity of giving?—That he had charge of the parish books, and obtained information from them.

10830. How did he come into the possession of the parish books?—I believe he kept the accounts of the overseer; some of the overseers cannot read and write at Westoning.

10831. Is there any thing wrong in Mr. Biggs, or any individual, giving information as to what is going on in parish affairs?—I can say nothing about that; it is not for me to give an opinion.

10832. Why, then, do you bring it forward?—You asked me if I had heard any thing, and I merely mentioned that; that occurred to my mind; I know nothing disparaging of Mr. Biggs.

10833. You do not mean to say that Mr. Biggs is disreputable because he has given information from the parish books?—I do not wish to convey any thing disparaging of Mr. Biggs; if it was a breach of trust, I should say it was wrong.

10834. Was there a breach of trust in that?—It would strike me that it was an unjustifiable act.

10835. Have you some secrets in the management of parish affairs, when all the persons possessing property have to pay rates?—None whatever.

10836. Then, could Mr. Biggs convey any information from the parish books which he ought to be blamed for?—I do not know that he could.

10837. You are the chairman of the board of guardians of the Woburn Union, are you not?—I am.

10838. Have you any secrets in your management of the affairs of the board of guardians, or of the parish affairs under the direction of the board in that union?—None whatever.

10839. You have nothing that you fear of being disclosed to the public or the rate-payers of the district?—Our meetings do not take place with open doors.

10840. You sit with closed doors?—Always.

10841. Why do you sit with closed doors?—We do not think it necessary to admit the public to our discussions.

10842. Why do you not think it necessary?—Because I think it would be very wrong to publish individual opinions to the public.

10843. Would you object to the rate-payers being present at the board?—Certainly not, if they applied for information.

10844. Where are they to apply to get to the board in order to see how the poor

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are examined there?—It is a matter of courtesy to apply to the chairman, and I have never, in any instance, refused permission.

10845. But still you sit with closed doors; does not that in itself operate as a preventive to persons appearing at the board who may be desirous of seeing what is going on?—I dare say it does.

10846. Then an impediment is thrown in the way of observing the conduct you pursue in your administration of relief to the poor of that union?—So far, it may be.

10847. Do you think that is just or fair towards the rate-payers of the Woburn Union?—Knowing that there is that facility to gain admission, I do not think it unjust; their constant presence might be a great interruption to our proceedings.

10848. You think it is right and just that you should sit with closed doors, and deny access, if you are disposed to do so, to any person who may wish to attend as a rate-payer?—I do not think it unfair that a discretion should be used in that case.

10849. That is, however, the practice you pursue?—It is; but I have never, in any instance, refused admission to a party who applied; and I have invited Messrs. Crabtree and Turner to attend our proceedings.

10850. Have you ever denied to Messrs. Crabtree and Turner access to your board?—Never; I never was applied to.

10851. Do you know whether Messrs. Crabtree and Turner were denied access to the workhouse of the Woburn Union?—I am not aware that they were denied admission; they were put into the way of obtaining admission.

10852. Are you aware that they were refused?—They were told, upon application to one of the resident guardians in Woburn, they might get admitted.

10853. Was that the answer given to them when they made application?—I understood that to be the answer.

10854. From whom did you understand that?—From the master of the workhouse himself.

10855. The master of the workhouse refused them admittance?—He might have refused them; but he put them in the way of being admitted by applying to one of the resident guardians of the union.

10856. Do you deny admittance to any body to the workhouse?—I have not denied admission, upon application to me as chairman.

10857. But it is a difficult thing to get admittance to the workhouse, or before the board of guardians, if somebody is to be applied to to give permission?—It is the usual mode of admission to boards of guardians, and the indiscriminate admission of strangers would perhaps be an interruption to the proceedings.

10858. And that is the course pursued in working out this Poor Law Bill?—It is our practice, and I believe it is general.

10859. When the old law was in force, was any body denied admission to the overseer or to the vestry?—I do not know.

10860. Do not you know what was the practice prior to the new law, you having lived 18 years in that district?—I am not aware of individuals being refused, on asking admission to the vestry meetings.

10861. Was it necessary that they should ask for admission to get to the parish board?—Not the rate-payers; they attended as a matter of right.

10862. And the poor could have admission, without being obstructed by overseers or relieving officers?—It was open to them.

10863. And they did do so?—Continually so.

10864. And that has been invaded by the operation of the new Poor Law?—As far as the exclusion, to the extent I state, goes, of strangers generally from the board of guardians.

10865. And of persons wanting relief, resident in the parish or in the union?—I am not aware of any person wishing to appeal from any decision of the board having been refused admission.

10866. Can any poor person in the Woburn Union get to the board of that union without first making application to the relieving officer?—Belonging to the union, but not resident therein; we expect the first application to be made to the relieving officer.

10867. Then the relieving officer is first to be got at before they can get at the board?— Application must be made to the relieving officer, to enable him to investigate

tigate the circumstances of the case; and upon the decision of the board being made known to the party, he may appeal.

10868. Does that throw any difficulty in the way of the poor getting admission to the board?—I am not aware that it has thrown any difficulty in their way.

10869. Are you quite certain that no instance has occurred of an obstacle being thrown in the way of the poor appearing at the board?—I cannot call to mind a single instance.

10870. Are there any other guardians who may know of it?—I cannot answer for other guardians; I only speak from the best of my knowledge.

10871. You have said before this Committee that Mr. Biggs is the agent of Mr. Turner?—That I believed him to be so.

10872. What do you mean when you say that Mr. Biggs is the agent of Mr. Turner?—My idea is that Mr. Biggs has supplied information upon parish matters to Mr. Turner.

10873. Has he received any compensation for the information he has given to Mr. Turner?—I cannot speak to that.

10874. Have you any reason to believe that he has?—I know nothing about that.

10875. But does not an agent generally receive remuneration for his services?—Not always; for instance, when you wished me to take upon myself the investigation of those tables put in the other day, I should not have looked to a remuneration for my services, but I should still have been the agent of the Committee.

10876. And you would have been properly styled, you think, if you had been stated to be the agent of the Committee to obtain this information?—I should *de facto* have been the agent of the Committee for the special purpose.

10877. You have since said that you have reason to believe that Mr. Biggs has conveyed information to Mr. Turner?—The men themselves have told me so; various men in the place that he has communicated with; they have told me that they did not ever communicate with Mr. Turner, but with Mr. Biggs solely.

10878. Who have told you that they have communicated with Mr. Biggs?—Several people.

10879. Will you mention their names?—I cannot at this moment mention particular names.

10880. Have you ever heard that Mr. Biggs has conveyed any false information either to Mr. Turner or to any other individuals?—Having noticed inaccuracies in the tabular statements put in, I think that wrong information has been conveyed.

10881. Do you suppose that that information has been obtained from Mr. Biggs?—I know of no other way, hardly, of obtaining it, except by the person mentioned there.

10882. Do you know whether the persons resident in the parish have been visited by Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree?—I understand that they have but allow me time, and I could mention many parties with whom Mr. Biggs has communicated, but I would not wish to commit myself by naming persons off-hand.

10883. If Mr. Biggs had the parish books he would have an opportunity of giving correct information, would he not?—As far as parish matters went.

10884. Then was he not a very proper person for Mr. Turner to apply to when he went down to Ampthill to obtain information?—I did not say that he was an improper person.

10885. What did you intend the Committee to understand or infer when you said that Mr. Biggs was the agent of Mr. Turner?—Plainly that the farmers were not satisfied with Mr. Biggs for having furnished the information to Mr. Turner.

10886. Are the farmers indisposed to have information conveyed to this Committee of facts as to the earnings of the poor?—The farmers think that there have been a great many mis-statements about them, and that it arises from the statements made in that way.

10887. Have you not it in your power to correct those statements?—I had hoped that I should have had, but I have been cut off from the means.

10888. What has cut you off from the means?—The excitement among the people, and their unwillingness to disclose their earnings.

10889. You have stated that difficulties have been thrown in your way, and

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that you have been insulted?—Yes; offensive expressions have been used towards me, and there has been also an unwillingness to communicate.

10890. Had you any more difficulties on Tuesday than you had on Saturday when the relieving officer accompanied you in obtaining this information?—Many more.

10891. What were they?—That the people were more silent as to their earnings, and less willing to disclose them; and their treatment of me was most offensive.

10892. In what way was it offensive, different from what you have stated?—I cannot call to mind every offensive expression that was used, but in many of their houses I met with scornful offensive treatment.

10893. Do you believe that it is possible to get correct information in the parish of Westoning as to the earnings or incomes of the labouring families in 1837?—I do not think it possible, and I will give you one instance of it; one woman I spoke to said, "I never tell my earnings, even to my husband," and you cannot reach the resources of the poor.

10894. There are employers as well as employed, are there not?—There are employers of day labourers.

10895. Do not the working men, all of them, and the families too, work for wages?—Yes.

10896. Then some person employs them and pays them those wages, does there not?—Certainly; but I speak of the earnings of the family.

10897. I am aware of that; but have you not also said that there is no possibility of getting correct information upon that subject?—I do not think you can reach the earnings of the women and the children at straw-plait.

10898. Have you not given the earnings of the family of Odell?—I have given her statement.

10899. Do you believe that to be true or not true?—I believe that the earnings are greater than she stated, comparing that with a scale of earnings which I think I put in evidence.

10900. The family of Odell derive their income principally from straw-plaiting, do they not?—I do not know that, I should say, principally; I do not know what proportion the man's wages may bear to the earnings of the family; I put the account in in evidence.

10901. Will you refer to your evidence?—The man's wages being 8*s.*, and the earnings of the family being 11*s.* 7½*d.*, the latter, of course, would be the larger sum.

10902. You do believe that the information that the wife of Odell gave you was correct?—I think the earnings of the wife and daughter, which were blended, were greater than she stated, but, I presume, she gave me the average of the year, taking one season with another; at the present season plait is very high; in the winter time it is very low in price generally.

10903. Is it higher now than it was three months ago?—I believe it is.

10904. How much is it higher?—I cannot say.

10905. When you came up to speak of the earnings of persons employed in a certain branch of business, should you not have taken pains to ascertain what the prices were at the time they were given to Mr. Turner, and at the time the wife stated them to you?—I do not think I was bound to give that evidence; I am not in the straw-plait line.

10906. Did you not come as a volunteer to state the earnings of Odell's family?—I was called upon to give evidence, and I gave evidence of the earnings of the family.

10907. Did you receive a summons?—I was called here to speak to the parish of Westoning.

10908. Do you remember, that when Mr. Marshall was going through his evidence, you were called into the chair, as being more capable of speaking as to the earnings of Odell's family than Mr. Marshall?—Exactly so.

10909. And you volunteered yourself as a witness at the call of the Chairman, in order that you might give more information than Mr. Marshall could do of the earnings of Odell's family?—I was called upon to state the earnings; I am not aware that I volunteered the evidence.

10910. Did you come to London for the purpose of giving that information?—I came here for the purpose of giving information with respect to parties in Westoning, whose cases had been under consideration, to which I could speak.

10911. When

10911. When were you summoned?—It was before Easter; I was called up; I was not formally summoned.

10912. Have you not been formally summoned on any occasion?—I was yesterday, but I was not before; I received a letter, which induced me to come up, and which I understood was tantamount to a summons.

10913. Whom did you receive a letter from, requesting you to come up?—From Mr. Adey, the Assistant-commissioner.

10914. What did Mr. Adey wish you to come up for?—To speak to the former state of Westoning, before the new law came into force.

10915. And you had prepared yourself with an account of the earnings of Odell's wife and children, in order that you might lay it before the Committee?—I heard statements made of certain families in Westoning, and, living near, I obtained what information I could upon the cases.

10916. And you went to Odell's wife, and obtained the information from her which you stated to this Committee?—I did.

10917. Did you take down what Odell's wife said, in her presence?—Yes.

10918. And read it to her, and she confirmed it?—Yes.

10919. Did she state that she and her family could earn that sum week by week throughout the whole of the year?—She gave me that as the state of their earnings, and I understood it to be the average earnings.

10920. For the year?—For the year; I understood it to be the average earnings of the year.

10921. Did Odell herself say that those were the average earnings of the year?—I believe she stated that those were the average earnings.

10922. You have just now said that there has been an advance in the price of straw-plaiting since the information was given to Mr. Turner; did Mrs. Odell state to you that they could earn this sum week by week, during the year, at the time you were asking her the question?—My impression is, that she gave that as the average earnings of the family for the year.

10923. You have said that you took down what she said, and read it over to her?—As regarded the earnings.

10924. Did she state that she and her family could earn that sum, week by week, during the year?—That was my impression.

10925. Did you ask the question?—I believe I did; I cannot speak with certainty; I believe she stated that those were the average earnings of herself and her family for the year.

10926. Are you quite certain she stated that they could earn that weekly?—That is my impression.

10927. Do you know, at the price which they are now receiving for straw-plaiting, what this family can earn per week?—I cannot say, at the present price.

10928. If they could earn that by the year, with the advance that has taken place latterly, they could now earn more than the sum you have stated?—Of course.

10929. Are you prepared to show to the Committee that they could earn more than that sum weekly which you have stated?—No, I am not prepared to speak to the price of straw-plaiting; I know nothing about it.

10930. Did you go to the persons employing Odell's family at straw-plaiting?—No, certainly not.

10931. You did, then, get up a statement quite as loose as that which you have attempted to represent to this Committee that Mr. Turner had got up?—I have given the statement of the woman herself and her family; I received the information from her.

10932. That they could earn that by the week?—I understood that to be the average earnings of the family.

10933. If Mrs. Odell was to come up here and say, that she had not told you that they earned that week by week, would that be untrue?—I can only say what my impression was at the time that she was giving me the average earnings; I cannot call to mind the precise words that were used upon the occasion.

10934. When you went to Mrs. Odell, there was no obstacle thrown in your way in obtaining the information you sought for?—None whatever; she is a very respectable woman, and is willing to give information.

10935. And you believe that Mrs. Odell would tell the truth, as to what her

family can earn, if she was summoned before the Committee?—So fluctuating is the price of plait, that it is difficult to speak to the average earnings of the family throughout the year, but I believe she spoke to the best of her knowledge.

10936. The Committee would have no reason to doubt Mrs. Odell's testimony, if she gave it?—Certainly not; I believe her to be a woman of truth.

10937. Do you know any other case where the wives and families are engaged in straw-plaiting, in Westoning, upon whose testimony the Committee might rely?—I have had so little intercourse with the families generally in Westoning, that I do not know that I could select one in particular; Benjamin Cox is a very respectable man, I believe, and I believe his family to be respectable; he is one of the three men who have been mentioned.

10938. Would the wife of Benjamin Cox be able to inform the Committee as to what they could earn in straw-plaiting?—I know nothing of Mrs. Cox, myself, excepting having once seen her, and received that statement from her.

10939. Have you any other individual in your recollection whom you could rely upon as giving correct information of what they could earn at straw-plaiting in that parish?—I really have so little acquaintance with the poor generally in Westoning, that I cannot recommend any particular family besides; I visited those two families.

10940. Are there only two men that you can select, out of a population of 600, in that parish, whom we might rely on for correct information?—To give a statement of the family earnings I do not know whom to recommend.

10941. Is it such a difficult thing to tell what they can obtain at this straw-plaiting?—Very, indeed.

10942. Why?—They are very unwilling to tell what they can earn.

10943. Why are they unwilling to tell what they can earn?—Because I think that the men would, in many instances, be induced to spend more of their earnings than they do, and to rely more upon the women to pay the expenses of the house, and so on.

10944. Then you think there is a great indisposition on the part of the labouring people of Bedfordshire to tell the truth as to the amount of their income from straw-plaiting?—I have always found it a most difficult thing to reach the earnings of a family in straw-plaiting.

10945. Do you know any who give out this straw-plaiting in Westoning?—I do not know much about it in Westoning; it is the common occupation of the people there.

10946. Who gives out the straw-plaiting to be worked?—They buy the straw, and make it themselves into the sort of plait that the persons who buy it of them desire; there are different sorts of plait.

10947. Could the buyers of this straw-plait give information as to what those children can obtain?—I should not like to take the statement of the factor, because he would take it as against the poor; many large plait-buyers buy of travelling factors, who collect it from the poor; but, of course, there is a second profit in that case, and if he were to speak to the earnings of the family, he would give it at a higher rate than would be just.

10948. The family of Odell, it has been stated in this Committee, are excellent straw-plaiters; do you believe that to be true?—I have not the means of ascertaining that; I have heard that they are very industrious.

10949. And that they are expert at the work in which they are engaged?—I should not think them remarkably expert, judging from the earnings they have given me; but I think they earn more than they have given an account of.

10950. Are there other families who can earn more than the amount stated by Mrs. Odell to you?—I think so; I have before said that I have not much acquaintance with the families in Westoning; in my own parish, I know something of the people, and I can mention the case of several there who earn considerably at the straw-plait.

10951. Do you know the most that any young woman can earn at straw-plaiting in the district where you reside?—Yes; not far from me, I heard an instance of a young woman (a factor told me, and he said he was present at the time of payment) earning 16 *s.* 2 *d.* for her week's work; I received the statement from the plait-dealer.

10952. For one week?—For one week; that, of course, is not an average; it is mentioned as a very remarkable instance; but I imagine the average earnings of young women to be from 5 *s.* to 7 *s.* a week. To show you the difficulty in reaching

reaching the earnings of young persons, I called upon a plait-dealer in Toddington parish, which is two miles from Westoning, and I was asking information of the factor; the factor's wife came in, and she gave me certain information, but I found it was erroneous; and at last she turned upon me and said, "Do you think I will give you the earnings of our girls?" showing that all she told me before could not be relied upon.

10953. But, in this one case, you had it represented to you that a plaiter could earn 16*s.* a week?—I heard it represented that she earned as much as 16*s.* 2*d.* a week.

10954. Do you know the name of that girl?—I do not; it was in Hitchin-market the payment was made.

10955. Do you know her age?—I cannot say.

10956. Do you know the name of the individual who purchased the straw-plait?—No, but I know the name of the dealer who was present when the payment was made.

10957. There is sufficient work at straw-plaiting in that part of the country, is there not?—There is very extensive employment in that way; it is the employment of the district.

10958. It has been said by the relieving officer in this Committee, that the men turn to straw-plaiting when they cannot obtain employment upon the land?—Many do.

10959. And that they derive a source of income from straw-plaiting when labour on the land is scarce?—No doubt of it; I noticed a shepherd the other day, one of the men mentioned in the tabular statement, who, at the same time he was tending his sheep, was also plaiting.

10960. Then you have no doubt whatever of the abundance of work at straw-plaiting for any who are disposed to engage in it?—At the present time; but the trade is very flat in the winter, and the earnings so much less.

10961. If the trade is flat in the winter, that circumstance would go to reduce the income of the year, would it not?—For that particular time, of course.

10962. There is also a winter in the year, is there not?—Yes; but the average would not be struck upon one season.

10963. Have not you spoken of the average earnings of Odell's family for the year?—I have, what I believe to be the average earnings.

10964. In that average there would be a winter?—Of course.

10965. Would there be a scarcity of employment, or a difficulty of obtaining it, in the winter?—It is not always so easy to get rid of the plait; there is not always the same facility of disposing of it at one season as at another.

10966. Is there any difficulty, on any occasion, which might reduce the earnings of the year, as compared with any particular week in the year?—Inasmuch as there are fluctuations, and many people have to depend upon their work in the winter time, they would be so much worse off in the winter.

10967. Would their earnings be reduced from their being worse off, or would their being worse off arise from their earnings being reduced?—From their earnings being reduced.

10968. That would reduce the average earnings of the year?—We must take the earnings of the four seasons.

10969. If, in one of the four seasons, they cannot obtain work, or cannot sell their plait, would not that reduce the average, taking the four seasons together, at the end of the year?—Many who can afford to wait for the sale of their plait, and can stand over, will wait for a more favourable market.

10970. Then there is always work to be obtained; do you wish the Committee to infer that, in straw-plaiting?—There are always earnings to be obtained at straw-plaiting.

10971. Always a sufficiency of work?—Yes; at a price greater or less.

10972. You have stated an instance of one individual who can get 16*s.* 2*d.* a week?—As a remarkable instance.

10973. If one individual could obtain 16*s.* 2*d.* a week, what would be the fair average earnings of the ordinary straw-plaiters?—I have understood from 5*s.* to 7*s.*, varying according to their skill.

10974. They can get that, taking the average of the year round?—I should think so; young women from 16 to 20.

10975. Are you aware that great pains have been taken to cause the families

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of those resident in the Ampthill Union to go to factories in the north?—I cannot speak to the practice in the Ampthill Union; I have nothing to do with the Ampthill Union; I am not a guardian there.

10976. Have any attempts been made to get any individuals from the Woburn Union to the factories in the north?—Certainly; and we have engaged certain families to migrate, and we have given assistance towards that object.

10977. Have representations been made to those families that they would obtain higher wages in the north than they could in the south?—We have never sent a family without having obtained an engagement with them at stated wages.

10978. And do those wages exceed what straw-plaiters you say can earn, viz. 6*s.* or 7*s.* a week?—In some instances they do, and many years ago straw-plaiting was not so good.

10979. Will you mention one instance where the wages have been represented to be higher than 5*s.* or 7*s.* a week, for girls of 16?—I am speaking of younger children; they could get larger earnings, and also the man; an engagement could be got for him for 12*s.* a week, when he was receiving only 9*s.* in Bedfordshire.

10980. Have you any cases in which it has been represented to you that those going from Woburn to the north could obtain 12*s.* a week?—I remember an instance that a man told me in which he got 12*s.*, and was doing very well till the mills stopped, and many men came home at that time, and we have never since encouraged their migrating; we have discouraged it, in fact.

10981. You think they would be much better at home?—I think so; I have seen so much misery attending it; and several individuals have returned whom we had assisted to migrate.

10982. You think the system of promoting migration should be abandoned?—I do not approve of it, speaking individually.

10983. Will you mention the name of the man who told you he got 12*s.* a week in the north?—Samuel Chance; I think he told me 12*s.*

10984. Where did he go to in the north?—I really cannot say precisely, at this moment.

10985. Do you remember the number of family which he had with him?—I cannot say; he had a wife and several young children; and he informed me that he was doing exceedingly well, much better than he could do in Bedfordshire, till there came this cessation of work.

10986. Had you any thing whatever to do in promoting his going from the Woburn Union to the north?—I assisted in the subscription for the purpose; some assistance was given by the board, but it was done more by private subscription.

10987. Did you see the engagement that was entered into, and the sum that he was to receive in his employment in the north?—I did.

10988. Can you lay before this Committee that case?—I might be able, upon referring to the papers in the board-room at Woburn; I believe I could.

10989. All the facts are stated in the written documents which you possess in the Woburn Union?—It was a printed form, signed by the manufacturer to whom the family was sent.

10990. Did the manufacturer apply for this family?—I understand that the Commissioners have an agent in the north, for the purpose of making arrangements for the migration of families.

10991. Did some correspondence pass between the board of guardians and the migration agent in this case?—Certainly; not only with respect to this, but other families who migrated.

10992. And you have the correspondence which passed with the Woburn Union?—I believe so.

10993. The correspondence in the cases of Chance and others you can furnish to the Committee?—I think it could be obtained.

10994. Will you lay that correspondence, and the facts regarding all the cases of migration from the Woburn Union, before this Committee?—The best information that can be obtained shall be supplied upon the requisition of the Committee.

10995. Do you know the number of families that have gone from the Woburn Union?—I cannot call to mind precisely, but I dare say six or seven; but I could give accurate information as to that.

10996. The family of Chance, you have said, have returned from the north to the Woburn Union?—They have returned, in great wretchedness.

10997. Have

10997. Have you seen them since their return?—Several times, I saw them when returning.

10998. Have you had any conversation with them as to the sufferings they had to endure in the north?—I had conversation with him upon many matters connected with his situation there.

10999. Can you state any thing that you have heard mentioned by Chance since his return to the Woburn Union, as to his migration?—I cannot call to mind any particular circumstance.

11000. *Chairman.*] State your general impression?—That when he first went there he got into employment himself, and that it was advantageous employment; and that he also had employment for all his family; his children were all put to school, and were clothed, and were altogether better off when they first went, till there came this stoppage, and then they and many other families came home in misery; and the opinion was formed, upon seeing how transient the advantage was, that it was better not to encourage migration; we therefore have discouraged it.

11001. Mr. *Fielden.*] Was Chance's family employed in straw-plaiting before they went to the north?—I dare say they were; it is the employment of the people generally; but that man's wife is a very bad manager; she is a very weak woman in intellect, and brings up her family in indolence.

11002. You got an engagement for this family to go into the north?—I did.

11003. Did you think it was doing right with the family of Chance, to send him away from the Woburn Union, with a wife who had weak intellect?—She was not so weak but that she could attend to the domestic concerns of her family; she was a very bad manager; I do not mean to give you an idea of an idiot.

11004. If she could understand the domestic management of her house in the north, she could do so in Bedfordshire?—Yes.

11005. What prevented the family from earning as much in straw-plaiting as in the factories?—Because she preferred taking her children out to break hedges and plunder, to keeping them to their work.

11006. How many children had they?—Five or six, I cannot say precisely.

11007. Do you know what the ages of the children were?—I cannot say off-hand, I will give every particular.

11008. Have any other families, besides the family of Chance, returned into the Woburn Union?—Yes.

11009. What others?—I cannot name all; but a family of the name of Odell returned, and have been received into the workhouse, and have remained there ever since, with the exception of two children, who have been placed out in service from the workhouse; the mother now is the nurse of the establishment.

11010. *Chairman.*] How long have they returned; how long has she been in the workhouse?—She was a widow, with four or five girls, and she is now the nurse in the establishment; and, since the family have been in the workhouse, we have got situations for one or two of the girls; I am not sure whether one or two, but one certainly, and I believe another has been placed out lately.

11011. Mr. *Fielden.*] This Odell was a widow, with some children?—Yes.

11012. An engagement was made for her?—Yes.

11013. Do you know where that woman went to?—I think to Derby; I can give accurate information as to that.

11014. Has she ever assigned any reason to you for her return?—That she did not do well with her family there; but I remember we sent relief to her when there; we did it two or three times; but her employer said that she did not use due exertion; that her family were not industrious.

11015. Has she stated that herself since her return?—No, I am not aware that she has.

11016. How many families, within your knowledge, have gone from the Woburn Union to the manufacturing districts?—I really cannot charge my memory; but, as I said before, you shall have accurate information as to that.

11017. How many have returned?—That I cannot speak to; three I know of, but I cannot tell the precise number.

11018. You do not know how many remain in the north, who went from the Woburn Union to the factories?—I cannot say; I can call to mind a fourth family who have returned, and are now in the workhouse.

11019. Were all those four families engaged in straw-plaiting before they went

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to the factories of the north?—No, I believe not; in the case of Mrs. Odell, I think her daughters were brought up to lace-making.

11020. Can they earn as much at lace-making as at straw-plaiting?—Certainly not.

11021. Mr. *Liddell.*] Did all those families migrate under the direction of the migration agent?—I cannot say positively, I rather think one did not, from Toddington; but that assistance was given to enable them to go, the man having expressed a wish to go; and one or two wished to join that family; there, I think, the board gave some assistance.

11022. Mr. *Fielden.*] But you can give the Committee a return of the circumstances of the families when they left the Woburn Union; whom they were engaged by; whom they went to; how many remained at the factories, and how many have returned; can you furnish that information?—I will give the Committee the best information that I can in the case.

11023. And the contracts that were made between the officers of the Woburn Union and the masters of the factories in the north?—In those cases in which it can be obtained; I mentioned that all those migrations did not take place with the assistance and sanction of the board; in some cases it was a private speculation of the parties themselves.

11024. Of all that did take place under the inspection or with the sanction of the board, can you furnish the returns I have asked for?—I think I can.

11025. And the wages they were making, if any statement was made, before they left the Woburn Union, and the wages they were engaged on in the north?—I beg your pardon; the inducement to the men to migrate would be, that the man was out of employment at the time.

11026. Can you furnish all the correspondence between the migration agent and the Woburn Union, and the engagements that have been entered into to receive those families in the north?—I will supply the fullest information I can in those cases.

11027. You will supply all the information possessed with regard to those families by the board of the Woburn Union?—As far as it can be.

11028. As far as you have any written documents on the subject?—Certainly.

11029. Mr. *Liddell.*] Were any contracts entered into between the migration agent and the master manufacturer?—Yes; the agent of the Commissioners in the north, Mr. Muggeridge, made the engagements with the different parties.

11030. Have the board of guardians ever, of themselves, without the intervention of the migration agent, entered into contracts with the manufacturers?—I think not, directly.

11031. But always through the intervention of the migration agent?—I think so; I do not know an instance to the contrary, except where parties have volunteered going.

11032. Have you heard any instances in which parties have made contracts with the manufacturers in the north, before going?—I am not aware; I remember the woman, Chance, the wife of Samuel Chance, after they had been removed into the north, came home; and she came to beat up for recruits, young children, to take some back to assist in the factory; but her character was so well known as a bad manager, that nobody would entrust their children to her; I remember putting the question to her, "Have you not come to beat up for recruits?"

11033. Have the contracts been always complied with, as far as you know?—I believe not, in the particular case I mention, of Chance; they stayed but a short time with their first employer; and I understood, from the man himself, that the contract was not performed towards him, and that they changed their master shortly after his arrival.

11034. Have parties any remedy for breach of contract in those cases; I am not aware; that is a legal question.

11035. Where a contract has been entered into, through the intervention of the authorized agent, on the part of the Commissioners of the Poor Law, are you aware or not whether they have any claim to compensation for a breach of contract?—I cannot say.

11036. Do not you think it ought to be so?—I deprecate the migration system so much, that I can say nothing more upon that subject.

11037. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do you happen to know whether any parish in that union, upon the return of any persons who have gone, under contract, upon receiving a poor

a poor person back again, has made inquiry as to the charge brought by the returning individual of breach of contract on the part of the master, or has taken it merely upon the statement of the party themselves?—I do not in either case.

11038. Mr. *Liddell.*] Have you ever heard of any code of rules which are instituted by manufacturers for the regulation of their labourers?—I am not aware.

11039. Have you ever heard that the master manufacturer has the means, if he pleases, of alleging some infringement upon this code of rules, that the labourer had never heard of before he went to the mill, and, in consequence of such alleged infringement, he may discharge him, without the possibility of his obtaining any remedy?—No, I am not aware of such a circumstance.

11040. Mr. *Fielden.*] On a former day you gave the Committee an account of the price that was paid for bean setting by the great; can you give the price that was paid for threshing in 1834 and in 1837?—That always varies according to the crop, and according to the season, and the way in which the corn is housed; if it is in a damp state, it will thresh so much worse, and so much more will be paid; but when the corn yields more, a low price will be a better remuneration than a high price when it yields badly.

11041. Can you state the price in 1834 and in 1837, without any reference to the yield?—That varies very much; at this moment there is, perhaps, a variation of 6*d.* a load in adjoining parishes.

11042. Would that not be so in 1834, as well as in 1837?—Very likely, according to the way in which the corn is housed in the different cases.

11043. What is the price paid for threshing now?—I hear of farmers giving 1*s.* 6*d.*, and 1*s.* 10*d.* and 2*s.* a load, of five bushels; besides that, they get some shillings a week, by tying up straw; 1*s.* a load is the general rule, in addition to what they earn threshing.

11044. Eighteen-pence and 1*s.* 10*d.* and 2*s.* are now the prices that you hear are paid?—Yes; I know of one farmer who is paying 1*s.* 6*d.*; I know others who are paying 2*s.*; it will vary according to the way in which the crop is housed.

11045. Is the number of farmers greater who pay 2*s.* than of those who pay 1*s.* 6*d.*?—I cannot say.

11046. Mr. *Liddell.*] Are not threshing machines generally employed?—Not generally in Bedfordshire; it is rather an exception where one is employed.

11047. Mr. *Hodges.*] Can you inform the Committee whether the same price is given uniformly in the union for corn similarly got in, or does one farmer give more for the same quality of corn in one parish than farmers give in the adjoining parishes?—Farmers will not be all agreed as to the quality of the corn.

11048. But, as a country gentleman and a farmer, can you say whether corn which is threshed in the parish of A. will be paid for at the same rate as corn of the same quality threshed in the parish of B.?—There is a variation, and, without its being conventional, one man will make a more grinding bargain than another; one, in addition to threshing, would allow milk or beer, and some advantage which another would not.

11049. In the parish where a lower rate of remuneration for threshing is given, of corn of equal quality, than in an adjoining parish, are wages generally lower?—No, I do not think that follows.

11050. Has that subject attracted your attention, as chairman of the board, to know whether there is in any parish a uniform depression of prices, as compared with the prices in the adjoining parish?—I have noticed that in some parishes the wages are lower uniformly for every description of work.

11051. Then, under these circumstances, have you discovered any difference in the condition of the people as compared with those in the adjoining parishes?—Where the people are not so extensively employed, I think they are not in such good condition.

11052. Is it not possible that when you use the word conventional, that might be altogether a parochial object, in order to avoid contributing quite so large a sum to the establishment charges of the union?—I do not think the parish has any thing to do with it, taking it as a parish object.

11053. That circumstance has never attracted your attention particularly?—No.

11054. But it would have that effect, would it not?—It might.

11055. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know the names of the farmers who pay 2 *s.* a load for threshing in Westoning parish?—I cannot speak to it.

11056. *Chairman.*] Do you pay that price yourself?—I do; I had it from a farmer in Westoning, that he had paid as much.

11057. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know who that farmer was?—I cannot call to mind his name at the present moment.

11058. Who pays 1 *s.* 8 *d.*?—Mr. Sears, the principal rate-payer in the parish of Westoning; and Mr. Gregory Sole pays 1 *s.* 8 *d.*

11059. Who besides?—Mr. Sears gives 1 *s.* 8 *d.* a load for threshing wheat, 1 *s.* a load for tying straw, and allows milk and small beer besides to his taskers daily; this is Mr. Sears' information to me.

11060. Do you know what that gentleman paid for the same sort of work in 1834?—I cannot say, so much would depend upon the season; but a man this year and the last two years would earn more at 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a load than he would at 2 *s.* in previous seasons; some time between 1834 and the present year, I paid as much as 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, or nearly 3 *s.* a load.

11061. Do you remember what you paid yourself in 1834?—I cannot say off-hand, but perhaps not more than I do at present.

11062. Mr. *Hodges.*] When you stated that the labourers of the parish, where a low rate of wages was given, would of course suffer more than they would in parishes where the wages were higher, that would take place only in the event of a less portion of relief being given in that parish than in adjoining parishes, is not that so?—I do not think that the amount of relief is governed by the amount of wages, because it is what we set our face against at the board, supplying any insufficiency of wages.

11063. Do you happen to know whether a smaller amount of out-door relief is given in those parishes where the wages are reduced?—No, I know of no such distinction; we give according to the circumstances of the family, taking each case upon its own merits.

11064. You do not happen to know whether in those parishes there is any marked difference in the amount of relief given?—Certainly not, as a rule.

11065. When you state that a lower rate of wages is, in some instances, paid for threshing and for other work, is it possible that the labourer can avoid accepting work upon those terms, under the present system?—Labour is free; the market is open to him; he is not confined to one spot or to one master.

11066. You mean that the union-house is open to him?—No; I mean to say that he may seek work in the adjoining district or parish, if he cannot get work in his own.

11067. But you have spoken of people who have migrated from this union; is not that a proof that there are more hands than there is work for?—Whenever any encouragement has been given to migration, it has been principally to widows with young children, and not so much to the labouring man and his family.

11068. Have you full occupation for all your able-bodied labourers?—Not throughout the union; only partially so; at certain seasons.

11069. When you talk of labour being free, and the market open, what market do you mean?—I mean, that if a man cannot get work in his own parish he may go to other parishes, and, from the circumstance of large works being carried on in adjoining parishes, the men are in the habit of seeking for work there; for instance, of going to the railroad; and they are now lowering a road near Dunstable.

11070. How comes it that they are induced to accept it, the threshing and other work, at a lower rate than is given in the adjoining parish?—I do not say they do; some people would rather accept a lower rate of wages at home than a higher rate abroad, for this reason: the man has, perhaps, a piece of ground, at which he works in the evening, and he would lose the opportunity of working at that if he went to another parish.

11071. Mr. *Langdale.*] Are there many individuals in your union who do not belong to the parishes, but who get work in the parishes in which they reside?—Yes, many.

11072. From being better workmen, they get work in those parishes where the inferior workmen who belong to the parish do not get it?—The distinction as to settlement, I think, is now got rid of in a great degree, as to the employment of people.

11073. *Chairman.*] With regard to the admission of strangers into the Woburn workhouse,

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workhouse, do you make any difficulty as to the admission of any respectable person who might wish to see the workhouse of Woburn?—I have often mentioned to the rate-payers that I should be glad to see them there; but we seldom have an application; I cannot call to mind a single application from a rate-payer, as a rate-payer, desiring to be admitted.

11074. But if a stranger were to come to Woburn, and to be curious to see the house, would there be any difficulty in his doing so?—Certainly not, upon proper application.

11075. To whom should he make the application?—To the master, generally.

11076. Have you any general regulation upon the subject?—I think you will perceive, by the Commissioners' regulations, that there is no control put upon the master as to the admission of any persons.

11077. It is at the discretion of the master to admit any body to see the workhouse?—Yes.

11078. Practically, does the master throw any difficulty in the way of the persons seeing the workhouse?—I think I understood from Mr. Fielden that he had done so in the particular instance mentioned some time ago; I think I understood that the master had replied, that if he applied to the resident guardian admission would be given.

11079. Will you be so good as to take into your hand the Second Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, with regard to the power that the rate-payers have of knowing what is going on, and turn to the 102d page of that book; this is an extract from an order for keeping and auditing the accounts of unions, published by the Poor Law Commissioners, and is an instruction under which the other boards of guardians act; do you find a notice to this effect: "Notice is hereby given, that in pursuance of an order made by the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, the quarterly abstract of the accounts of the union, together with the ledger, is deposited in the board-room in workhouse, and such abstract and ledger will be open to be inspected, examined and copied by any owner or rate-payer in the said union, at any reasonable hour of any day when the board is not sitting, until the day of and on the last-mentioned day and following days, the said accounts, together with the accounts of the several parishes of the union, will be audited by at when and where any owner or rate-payer, who may object to any matter contained in the said several accounts, may attend, and his objection will be heard;" is that regulation one under which you are acting at Woburn?—It is.

11080. Do you observe in that regulation a notice to all the rate-payers of the union, that they may have at stated periods an opportunity of inspecting the rate-books and an abstract of the ledger, and may fully object to any matter stated in the account, and that objection will be heard?—Certainly.

11081. Does that appear to you to be an adequate provision for the rate-payers and inhabitants of the union?—I think so.

11082. Turn to the 11th paragraph, contained in the same page, in which you see these words, "And we do further order that the clerk shall, once in every quarter of a year, within 14 days after the quarterly audit, make out, according to Form No. 13, for each of the parishes or places comprised in the said union, a list of the paupers who have received relief during the previous quarter, in or out of the workhouse, and the said clerk shall cause the relieving officers of the said union to affix copies of such lists respectively upon the principal doors of the respective parish churches, or such other places upon which public notices are usually exhibited, in the said parishes, or such other place or places as the guardians of the said union for the time being may direct and appoint;" are those notices regularly affixed on the church-doors?—Directions are given; I cannot speak to the fact that they are affixed.

11083. In your parish are those notices affixed?—I believe they are.

11084. Those contain the names of all paupers, whether in or out of the workhouse, as well as the amount given to each?—It used to be done; I cannot call to mind whether I have noticed the thing lately.

11085. At all events, there is a regulation to that effect?—Yes; I cannot speak to the fact of it having occurred lately.

11086. Have you observed that list upon the door of your own parish-church?—I have.

11087. Does not that give every rate-payer or inhabitant of the parish an

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opportunity of knowing how the parish funds are disposed of, and what is the amount of relief given to the paupers?—The information, being posted there, is accessible to every parishioner, but you cannot secure its remaining there; it may be posted there, but I doubt its remaining.

11088. Mr. *Liddell.*] Is it torn off?—It is likely to be; I cannot speak to the fact, but it is likely to be.

11089. Mr. *Walker.*] The labourers do not like to have it known what they receive?—I dare say it would be painful to the feelings of many recipients of relief.

11090. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have said that you have got the account of the earnings of 20 families whom you visited on Saturday?—I think I can give a statement of 35, when I am able to draw it out.

11091. Thirty-five who were embraced in the table put in by Mr. Turner?—Yes; not embraced in one table, but in the two tables.

11092. Those are resident in the parish of Westoning?—Resident in the parish of Westoning, but not all belonging to it.

11093. Would there be any difficulty in completing that table, provided assistance were offered you?—I should wish to retire from the task; I felt myself put in such a painful situation.

11094. Supposing Messrs. Crabtree and Turner, who, you say, have thrown difficulties in your way, were to accompany you to the parish, with a view to get up a correct statement, would that assist you?—I should decline such an association.

11095. And you would not get any other individual or individuals to accompany you, in order to get that statement corrected?—I wish not to be mixed up with it; I felt aggrieved by the way in which I was pressed before.

11096. Do not you think it important that the Committee should know what is the income of those different families in the parish of Westoning, after such pains have been taken?—I thought my veracity was impeached some time ago, and I felt pained by that circumstance; and, as a degree of suspicion was thrown upon my evidence, I wish to retire from the undertaking.

11097. Is there any individual residing in the parish of Westoning whom you can name as being competent to correct these tables, if they are incorrect?—I cannot name one who would be willing to undertake the office.

11098. Is there not one man to be found who will endeavour to get at the fact of the earnings of those labourers in that parish?—I do not think it possible to obtain an accurate statement of the earnings of the families.

11099. Do you think it possible to obtain an approximation to the truth?—Very nearly; I think I have information which might supply it.

11100. If you decline to supply it, do you not think that it is desirable that some other person should be engaged for that purpose, in whom the Committee may confide?—That is as the Committee may think.

11101. The parish of Westoning is not a large parish?—About 1,800 acres, and between 600 and 700 population.

11102. An attempt has been made, as you are aware, to get an account of the income of every labouring family in that parish; that tabular statement which has been put in you have attempted to impugn; do you think it is desirable at all that that statement should be corrected where it is found to be incorrect?—I could point out many inaccuracies now off-hand; with regard to 1837, I can point out many inaccuracies; as to 1834 I can say nothing.

11103. If the earnings of the families in 1837 be understated, are they not also understated as regards 1834?—Very likely.

11104. Was there not as good a price paid for labour in 1834, and as good a price paid for straw-plaiting in 1834 as in 1837?—But the system of head-money, as I said before, was so much mixed up with wages, and I understood the inference, as to the amount of their employment, was taken from the parish books, that when they were in receipt of relief it was supposed that they were employed by the parish, or put into the gravel-pit, whereas many of those men received head-money regularly, and were in regular work at the same time; and, again, many of those persons were plaiting at the same time that they were stationed in the gravel-pit.

11105. Would not that make the amount of earnings in 1834 greater than has been shown in the table, including the parish relief?—Of course; it would impugn the correctness of it.

11106. If they were receiving parish relief and wages at the same time, the statement

statement given in and published by the Committee is erroneous, because it is too low; is not that the fact?—It will be, in many respects.

11107. In many respects erroneous, as representing the income of the family in 1834, than was really the case?—Yes; and as to the earnings of the families it is incorrect, in both cases, perhaps.

11108. Can you state any cases in which it is incorrect in 1834 or in 1837, besides those which you have given to the Committee?—John Wilsted, aged 53, is stated as having only received 9*s.* a week; in 1837, he received 10*s.* throughout the year, except harvest, and there is nothing put down for his harvest wages; and the earnings of the wife and children I should imagine to be greatly beyond what is stated, 5*l.* 4*s.*; the man told me that he had 10*s.* a week regularly throughout the year; he works for me at this time; he is a man that I am in the habit of employing; the man is a sawyer; he is an under pit-man; when he has not work he comes to me; I give him work.

11109. Are those the wages that he earns at agricultural employment?—When he is at day-work he receives 9*s.* a week from me, but he sometimes works by the great; he is now, and has been for a length of time, working by the great.

11110. What do you think he earns?—I think he earns by the great about 12*s.* a week.

11111. What do you imagine to be the earnings of the family?—I am not acquainted with his wife, and therefore I do not know her capability; the child is 13, and, therefore, I should suppose, might earn at least 3*s.* a week, or more.

11112. You believe, therefore, the sum of 5*l.* 4*s.* to be a very inadequate representation of the amount of the earnings of the family?—I do. Will the Committee allow me to observe, it was stated that I had given the amount of the money earned by the village barber: upon further recollection, I did not give the money, I merely stated to Mr. Marshall that he was the village barber; I did not speak to the amount of earnings, and I ought to mention that circumstance, in justice to myself.

THIRTY-THIRD REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
18 *May* 1838.

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THIRTY-FOURTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
22 *May* 1838.

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Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.	Mr. Ward.
Mr. Fazakerley.	Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Richard Walker.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.	Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Baines.	Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Lister.	Mr. Chichester.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.	Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. Liddell.	Mr. John Fielden.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).	

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

22 *May* 1838.

WITNESSES.

George Pearce, Esq. - - - - - - p. 1
Rev. *Thomas Beach Whitehurst* - - - - - - p. 1
Henry Musgrave Musgrave, Esq. - - - - p. 8
Mr. *Thomas William Overman* - - - - - p. 12

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Martis, 22° die Maii, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Langdale.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Lister.
Mr. Hodges.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

George Pearce, Esq., again called in; and further Examined.

George Pearce, Esq.

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11113. Mr. *Fielden.*] HAVE you brought up the returns of migrants from the Woburn Union to the north?—They are likely to arrive either this afternoon or to-morrow morning; they could not be prepared earlier; and the information will be as full as it is possible to be supplied.

11114. *Chairman.*] What have you been able to do with regard to the cases on which Mr. Turner spoke?—I have been proceeding with them, but there was so much information to be procured that it is utterly impossible that they can be ready to-day; yesterday was the first day I could apply myself to them.

11115. At what time will they be prepared?—By Tuesday next.

Rev. *Thomas Beach Whitehurst*, called in; and Examined.

Rev. *T. B. Whitehurst.*

11116. *Chairman.*] DO you reside in Ampthill?—I do.

11117. Are you a member of the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union?—I am.

11118. Have you been so for some time?—The whole of the last year.

11119. Have you attended pretty constantly at the board?—I think I may say very constantly, with the exception of some weeks in the summer.

11120. Had you resided in Ampthill some time before the new law?—About 14 years.

11121. How long have you lived in the parish of Westoning?—I lived in Westoning the first 23 years of my life, and since that 15 in Ampthill.

11122. Was your father curate of Ampthill?—He was vicar of Westoning.

11123. What is your general impression as to the effects of the law upon the condition and industry of the labouring classes of the poor at Ampthill?—I confess that I am highly in favour of it; I think that their condition is certainly better.

11124. Will you state in what respects you think their condition is improved?—I think that their morals are better; certainly they are more inclined to be industrious.

11125. Do you think that their physical condition is worse; that they have less means of providing themselves with the necessaries of life than they had formerly?—I do not think so.

11127. Have you observed that their health has been affected since the introduction of the law, and that there is any appearance of increased weakness or inability to labour?—Certainly not.

11128. Have you observed, generally, that they are more employed in regular labour than they were before?—I think they are, decidedly.

11129. Have you been in the habit of visiting their cottages?—Yes, I have; I am not the curate, I am merely living in Ampthill, and therefore I have not been so much in their cottages as I otherwise should have been; but I certainly have been in their cottages, and I cannot at all suppose that their condition is worse; certainly not.

11130. Comparing the state of the cottages, with respect to the furniture and the ordinary comforts of life, belonging to persons in that condition, do you observe any change for the worse since the introduction of the law?—Certainly not.

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11131. Do you observe that they have less furniture, worse bedding, or any appearance of worse food?—No, I do not.

11132. Do you think that the relationship in which the labourers stand to the occupiers of land, the farmers and employers of labour, is better than it was before the introduction of the law?—Yes, I do, most decidedly.

11133. May I ask you, was your impression with respect to the law favourable upon its first introduction?—I cannot say that it altogether was.

11134. You entertained some doubts of the propriety of some of the provisions of it?—Yes.

11135. Has your experience, since the law has been in operation at Ampthill, either as a resident there, or as a member of the board of guardians, tended to alter that opinion?—It has.

11136. In what respect?—I thought that the measure was a hard one in one or two respects; to instance one case, the case of bastardy; but I confess my opinion has altogether altered upon that score.

11137. In what respect has your opinion altered with reference to that particular part of the subject?—I thought that it possibly might lead to infanticide; but there is every proof to the contrary; and bastardy, I believe, from what I can collect, to be on the decrease.

11138. Do you believe that the effect of those clauses with respect to bastardy has been to make the conduct of the women more discreet and cautious?—I hope it has; at least I believe, as far as I can collect, and I have made inquiries, that bastardy is not so common as it was.

11139. The board of guardians at Ampthill are in the habit, are they not, of refusing out-door relief to able-bodied labourers?—They are.

11140. Is that uniformly so?—It is.

11141. Unless they should be at the time ill?—Yes.

11142. What, in your opinion, has been the effect of the practice of refusing out-door relief to the able-bodied?—I think it has been a great spur to exertion.

11143. Do you think it has had the effect of reducing that class of labourers to greater difficulty or distress than they were formerly exposed to?—No, I do not, certainly; I think it has driven several to work who never worked before.

11144. Have you ever heard from them that it has been an inducement, or that it has had the effect of lowering the rate of wages?—No, I never have; in fact, I have never heard complaints from those whom I consider respectable and well-disposed labourers.

11145. You have heard complaints, probably, from those who were formerly idle and indisposed to exert themselves, and who were in the habit of relying upon parochial assistance?—Decidedly.

11146. But in the case of well-disposed and industrious, and well-regulated men, you have not heard complaints of that description?—No; I have heard it remarked as a good thing that many an able-bodied man gains a livelihood now by honest industry who never did so before.

11147. You lived in the parish of Westoning in the earlier part of your life?—Yes, all the earlier part of my life.

11148. Do you know any thing of the present state of Westoning?—I am not altogether ignorant of it; I know perfectly well several of the parishioners.

11149. Generally, what was the state of the poor in Westoning when you resided there?—Nothing could be so bad as the management of the poor in the parish of Westoning; nothing could be so bad as the system they adopted.

11150. The system adopted was, that the parish gravel-pit was offered to all who were able-bodied, and who applied for parish assistance?—Yes.

11151. Were they sent there in great crowds?—I think I have known as many there as three or four and forty.

11152. When they were there were they employed at regular labour?—They were paid by the parish a certain weekly allowance; but I have been told by some of them that if any of them were willing to work the majority would not allow them to do so. I was for a short time staying with a brother-in-law who is living in Flitwick, adjoining the parish of Westoning, and saw a great deal of their proceedings, which was of the most unsatisfactory kind.

11153. Describe it?—Being sent to the parish gravel-pit, the whole body of the labourers, or the greater part of them, were constantly in his woods, which were close adjoining, and, in fact, nothing was safe, and we were constantly annoyed by them.

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11154. The men sent to the parish gravel-pit, and supposed to be in work, and paid for being at work, were, in fact, stealing upon the neighbouring property?—Yes, and if any one of them was willing to work, the majority would not allow him to do so; that I have been told by people that were formerly in the gravel-pits.

11155. Do you know what is the present condition of the parish, whether in any respect the condition of the poor is altered for the better or the worse?—I think that several parties who never worked before have now got work, and are now much more respectable than they were.

11156. Then am I to infer from what you have stated that your general impression is, that the amount of labour has increased, and that the industry of the labouring classes has increased?—I think it has.

11157. That their occupation is more regular?—I think it is.

11158. And with respect to the well-conducted and industrious labourer, the effect of this law has not been to reduce him to greater difficulties than formerly?—I do not think it has.

11159. Do you think his condition has improved by his being provided with a more constant supply of labour?—I should say, on the whole, that it had.

11161. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Formerly you had some doubts of the policy of the new law, particularly as to the bastardy clauses; you thought them hard?—I did.

11162. Are you now satisfied with the provisions of the Act of Parliament?—I think that bastardy is on the decline.

11163. Are you satisfied with the provisions of the Act as they now stand; do you think it right that the father of the bastard child should in no case be charged with the maintenance of that child?—I think that it ought to be between the woman and the man; I cannot see why the public should be called upon, and made answerable for bastards.

11164. Would you make so great a distinction between the man and the woman, that you would charge her exclusively with the maintenance of the child?—I would leave it to themselves.

11165. Would you make no distinction between a woman who had several children and a woman with her first child?—Yes, of course; the guilt is considerably increased in the former instance.

11166. Does it not occur to you that, in common charity, you may suppose the first child to be the result of something like seduction?—There is not a question of that.

11167. Would you, in such a case, visit all the punishment of the transaction upon the woman, and let the man go free?—As far as common charity is concerned there cannot be a doubt; but whether you can make a law to meet that I cannot say.

11168. Would you see any objection to make a law to allow the woman to affiliate the first child?—If you put it upon charity, I say no; but as a public matter, touching the law, I should have my doubts about it.

11169. *Chairman.*] What would be your reason for entertaining those doubts?—I think I would put as great a check as I could to bastardy; I admit that there are several hard cases and cases of great suffering.

11170. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Do you think you materially prevent the crime of this immoral connexion by visiting all the punishment upon the woman?—No; but I think you will, by withdrawing yourself from taking any part in it; the old law was a most iniquitous one, and, in fact, offered a great premium upon the commission of that offence.

11171. Mr. *Hodges.*] If you consider that the visiting the whole of the penalty of the transaction upon the woman would be a check upon the practice, would it not be a still greater check if a corresponding penalty was placed on the man?—It might be, but the difficulty would be how to impose that check.

11172. Supposing that it could be done, would not your reasoning warrant that conclusion?—Yes.

11173. Mr. *Freshfield.*] In one of your answers you stated that it should be left to the man and woman to settle it between themselves, but the man has the positive right to refuse any contribution; his moral feeling may not be very strong,

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and there is no legal obligation on his part to do any thing; how can it then be left to the man and woman to settle, if the woman has no means to enforce any thing from the man?—My idea is, that by taking away that protection from the woman, you induce her, before she prostitutes herself, to marry.

11174. Would you see any strong objection, and if you do, will you point it out, to a provision that the woman should be allowed to affiliate the first child?—As I said before, I think it is frequently a hard case, and the woman is very much to be pitied; but by affiliating the first child, you may be in some measure thought to countenance the crime.

11175. Then would you give the woman any legal right to recover against the man in an action at law?—I am hardly prepared to give an answer to that question; I have not thought on the matter so deeply as I perhaps might have done.

11176. Do you see any policy in relieving the man and throwing the whole punishment upon the woman?—No, I do not, in relieving the man, but if you advocate altogether the cause of the woman, and allow her to affiliate, by interfering at all, you in some measure patronize the crime.

11177. Mr. *Hodges.*] Looking at the crime as a crime against society, would it not be a considerable check that the penalty imposed upon the man should go to the parish for some general fund of education or some such purpose, not by any means to go into the pocket of the woman?—Really I have not thought of any thing of the kind; I am not at all prepared to give an answer to that; it might possibly have its advantages, but I am not prepared to give an answer.

11178. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you not think if two parties are equally concerned in the commission of a crime, that it is inconsistent with common justice to visit the consequences and penalties of that crime upon only one of them?—No, I do not; I do not look upon it in that light; it is a concern between themselves with which I should have nothing whatever to do.

11179. I have put it upon the supposition that both parties are equally criminal in the offence, but do you not consider that in cases of seduction, in 99 times out of 100 times, the greater part of the offence lies with the man?—I perfectly agree with you; I think that is very likely to be the case.

11180. If it is unjust to throw the penalty of the offence upon one party only, supposing the two are equally guilty, is it not more unjust to throw it wholly upon that party who is comparatively innocent?—It is.

11181. In such cases do not you think that it is consistent with common justice that the party most injured, namely, the woman, should have some remedy against the offender?—As I said before, if you put it upon feelings of charity.

11182. Putting it upon feelings of justice?—My idea I confess has always been to know nothing of the crime; I quite think that the woman is frequently very much to be pitied, and an object of great consideration; but, looking at it in a legal way, I hardly see how you are to meet it.

11183. In the mean time, till the last five years, the law has always taken cognizance of that offence?—It has, and in an unfortunate way, inasmuch as it held out a premium to bastardy.

11184. That may be so, but does it follow that the law has been right in refusing to take cognizance of the offence?—That I will not give an opinion upon.

11185. Mr. *Freshfield.*] I collect that you are apprehensive lest you should, by taking cognizance of it, sanction the crime in any way?—Yes.

11186. But does it not also occur to you that by the alteration of the law you offer an inducement to unprincipled men to commit the crime by taking away from them some of the punishment that might offer a preventive?—No, I do not think that, because the woman is more upon her guard, and more alert in preserving her chastity.

11187. But, as the law now stands, the man is let loose upon society, and experiences no evil consequence to himself from his crime?—I am aware of that.

11188. Is not that apprehension, which might operate upon him as a preventive, taken away?—Certainly, there is no doubt that that is taken away.

11189. Are we not thereby removing the motive that might save some poor women from seduction and prostitution?—I think in some cases that might possibly be; but, as I said before, I think in relieving the man you are making the woman more upon her guard, more careful, more circumspect in her conduct; she knows that she has not those resources to apply to which she formerly had.

11190. And

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11190. And you think it consistent with justice, that all the protection to society should depend upon the woman, and, in case of failure, all the consequences should attach to the woman?—There may be some hard cases of seduction, but I do not see how you are to meet it with any law.

11191. You yourself had strong feelings upon the subject of this clause?—I had; I thought, in the first instance, it would lead to infanticide.

11192. Does it not occur to you that the unmanliness of the change of the law in that respect, has produced a great spirit of hostility to the general principle of the new law?—No, I cannot say that I have found it so.

11193. Is it not calculated to excite very strong feelings in the mind of any humane person?—I do not know that; I have known some very humane persons who have approved of those clauses.

11194. Mr. *Lister.*] You say that you consider the old law abominable; do you know what the old law was?—I do not think I used the word "abominable"; I spoke of it as holding out a premium to bastardy.

11195. Do not you consider that there is a third party who is concerned in this, as well as the woman and the man, namely, the parish?—Yes.

11196. Do not you know that under the old law the woman was not entitled to any thing, that the payment from the man was an indemnity to the parish, not to the woman?—Yes; but it always came into the pocket of the woman.

11197. Was that the case everywhere?—I can only speak from my own local knowledge; if a woman had a bastard child (though not a magistrate, I was frequently in the habit of attending magistrates' meetings), I think the usual allowance was 1*s.* 6*d.* a week; if she had two, it was 3*s.*; and for a third, I can point out two or three instances, and even more than that, where women had 4*s.* 6*d.* and which was certainly an inducement for any man whose feelings were not remarkably acute to take her as his wife.

11198. Do you consider that the old law gave the woman the power over that money?—I am not speaking as a magistrate; but it was the custom in our neighbourhood that it went into the pocket of the woman; I believe I may say, that there is not an instance to the contrary, but that it always went into the pocket of the woman.

11199. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Are you aware that by the old law there was a severe punishment applying to the mother, that the mother was subject to be imprisoned?—I am; that was occasionally, I believe, adhered to in Bedfordshire.

11200. That that was a part of the old law?—Yes, but it was very seldom carried into effect.

11201. That was a strong motive, then, operating upon the woman to avoid the approaches of the man?—It was never carried into effect, I think, but in the case of old offenders.

11202. The great change in the law, we may consider to be the relieving the father altogether from liability?—Yes.

11203. *Chairman.*] The practice under the old law was to make an allowance to the woman, was it not?—Yes.

11204. That allowance, in the part of England with which you are acquainted, was almost invariably paid to the woman?—I believe invariably; I never remember to have heard of an instance to the contrary.

11205. It was enforced against the man by imprisonment, if necessary?—Yes.

11206. All the consequences, either of payment or imprisonment, might have been avoided if the man married the woman, might they not?—All of them.

11207. Did not that have the effect of leading to what are called compulsory marriages?—No doubt of it.

11208. Did not the parish make this arrangement with the man, "You shall be quit of all charge, and free from prosecution, if you will consent to marry the woman"?—Yes; and I believe covertly, though it was illegal, bribery has been resorted to to induce a man to marry the woman, to relieve the parish.

11209. Do you consider marriages, contracted under circumstances and inducements of that description, to be likely to lead to the morality of the people who are parties to the engagement?—Decidedly not.

11210. Do you think it a very proper thing for the law to be so contrived as to put this motive into operation?—No, decidedly not.

11211. Do not you think it extremely desirable that all inducements to compulsory marriages, and all claims which the woman may think that she has upon

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the man, and which may therefore be an inducement to her to consent to his proposals, should be, as much as possible, removed?—Certainly.

11212. Do not you think, therefore, looking to the public and to the general morality of the country, that morality is advanced by a measure which throws upon the woman the responsibility of her own conduct?—I do.

11213. Do you believe that that has been the effect of the present measure, as contrasted with the former state of the law?—I think it has.

11214. And in that respect, therefore, you think this measure calculated to advance the morality of the people?—Certainly I do.

11215. As far as your experience goes, do you think that in your own neighbourhood it has had that effect?—I think it has.

11216. Do you think that any legislative provision, giving the woman a power over the man, and a claim to prosecute him, could be contrived, which would not operate upon her mind as an inducement to yield to the man's proposals?—That I am hardly prepared to answer; possibly some arrangement might be made, but certainly it would be a matter of much difficulty.

11217. Are you aware of what course takes place in Ampthill, or in your own neighbourhood, with reference to applications to the quarter sessions for affiliations?—I really am not; I am not acting as a magistrate.

11218. Have you ever, as a member of the board, encouraged such an application to the quarter sessions?—No, I never have.

11219. Have you heard the question discussed by the board?—No; we have had very few cases, in my experience, before us, if any.

11220. What is your practice with reference to bastard children in the Ampthill Union; do you offer relief in the workhouse in the case of women who apply to you, being pregnant with bastard children, or who have bastard children?—We take them into the workhouse.

11221. Do many apply when pregnant with bastard children?—Some have done so.

11222. Do those persons go into the workhouse?—We have discouraged their coming into the workhouse, as much as possible, when there is any chance of their relations supporting them, from the consideration that the woman, being in that condition, has proceeded from the lax discipline on the part of the father and mother; and, therefore, that the onus ought to fall upon them.

11223. Therefore, whenever, in your estimation, the parents have been able to support the woman, you have invariably endeavoured to enforce that?—Yes.

11224. Where they had not parents, have you received them into the house?—Yes.

11225. In those cases in which they have come into the house, have they remained there during their confinement?—Yes.

11226. Do they remain there long afterwards?—No; I think I may say usually, in fact, generally, they go very soon afterwards.

11227. As far as you have known any instances, what have been their means of supporting themselves and their children after they have left the house?—Possibly by plaiting, or their former occupations.

11228. Have you heard of any women being reduced to great distress after they have left the house with bastard children?—I really have not; there possibly may be instances, but they have not come under my knowledge.

11229. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You stated that the man was subject to be apprehended and committed to prison, under the old law; are you not also aware that that was only in cases of having no goods that could be seized upon; that if he had no property there was a power in the overseer, by order of two magistrates, confirmed at sessions, to apprehend him and commit him to prison?—Yes, but the majority of cases were those of young men who were living with their parents, and who had nothing in the world.

11230. Mr. *Liddell.*] Did they not receive wages for their labour which they could pay?—Yes, and those wages very frequently came from the parish, in the first instance.

11231. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You spoke of the desecration of marriage, by those persons being forced into a union; do you think it any improvement that the man is left to form another connexion, and the woman another connexion, after this criminal intercourse?—I think any thing is better than forcing a marriage.

11232. Is it not rather desirable that, if parties have had this illicit connexion, they should be the persons between whom the marriage is contracted?—Doubtless, if

if they can come together with any thing like affection; but if they come together in order to avoid the penalty, I think they are better separated.

11233. Your objection is to a forced marriage?—To forced marriage.

11234. Mr. *Lister.*] You say that there are fewer affiliation orders than there formerly were; do you know any reason for that?—From the inquiries I have made, I hear that bastardy is generally on the decline.

11235. Do not you know that it is much more expensive to get an order now than it formerly was?—No, I do not; I do not act as a magistrate.

11236. Have they not now to apply to the sessions to get that order?—That I cannot speak to.

11237. Mr. *Liddell.*] Is bastardy really on the decline in the neighbourhood of Ampthill?—I have made many inquiries, and I believe it to be so.

11238. Can you, from your own knowledge, state that it is on the decrease?—No, I cannot.

11239. Mr. *Hodges.*] With respect to compulsory marriages, has not the operation of the law of settlement removed the principal motive for such marriages?—Really that is a question which I cannot answer; I am not acting as a magistrate.

11240. Mr. *Liddell.*] Have you heard of any cases of abandonment or desertion of children in the Union of Ampthill?—I have heard of none.

11241. Mr. *Hodges.*] Are you in the habit of employing labourers yourself?—I am occasionally in the habit of employing labourers.

11242. Do you farm?—No, I do not.

11243. Have you ever farmed?—No, I never have.

11244. When you lived in Westoning, did your father farm?—No, except in a very small way.

11245. You have stated that the working men are not at all in a worse condition than they used to be?—No, I do not think they are.

11246. Can you state the wages which they are at present receiving?—No, of the Westoning labourers, I cannot.

11247. How is it that you form an opinion as to the comparative state of comfort with reference to the means possessed by the labouring people under the present law and under the old?—By occasionally visiting their cottages.

11248. You have described that, under the old law, men were employed in gravel-pits?—Yes.

11249. Were those men considered to be the best men in the parish?—They were some of the most able-bodied, but certainly not men of the best character.

11250. Then at that time the best men were fully employed in regular farming work?—No, I believe the best men in the parish of Westoning were not fully employed; the parish of Westoning is an unfortunate parish, and has been labouring under many disadvantages for many years.

11251. Were there no men in the parish of Westoning of good character, who were in regular and constant employment at that time?—The greater part were paid out of the parish books.

11252. Were all the men in that parish at times taking their turns in the gravel-pits?—No, I would not say that all were.

11253. Then those who were not in gravel-pits must have been in regular employment?—Yes.

11254. Can you state what wages they received at that time?—No, I really cannot, because you are alluding to a time when I left Westoning; you are speaking of a period within the last 10 years.

11255. Speaking of the time of the old law, and when you resided there?—But I had left Westoning some years before the new law came into force.

11256. With respect to those men who were not in the gravel-pits, can you state what they received in wages, and what they received in relief?—No, I cannot; I can merely state that the greater part by far were employed at the gravel-pit.

11257. If you cannot give this information, how are we able to ascertain the comparative condition of that particular class of men with what it was before?—I have not spoken particularly as to the comparative state of labourers in the parish of Westoning, but generally of the condition of labourers throughout the union.

11258. You state that it is not worse now than it was before?—It is not.

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11259. Were there gravel-pits in Ampthill?—No, the overseer employed them as best he could.

11260. Mr. *Liddell.*] Respecting the workhouse of the Ampthill Union, are you a visitor of the workhouse?—Yes.

11261. Do you find it generally in good order and well regulated?—I do indeed.

11262. Are the inmates satisfied with their lot?—To say that a person was satisfied would be a very difficult thing to say; I can only appeal to their general appearance; they are all remarkably healthy; but I have no doubt there are many people there who would eat much more than they get; but I consider that no proof whatever of the insufficiency of the dietary.

11263. They have complained sometimes that it is insufficient?—I have heard them say that they have been starved, and the most dreadful complaints made; but I can only say that I believe them to be unfounded.

11264. You do not think there was any justice in the complaints they made of being starved?—I do not indeed; I have tried the dietary myself, and I found it was certainly enough.

11265. Do you mean enough to live upon, the diet?—Yes.

11266. Mr. *Hodges.*] How long did you make the experiment?—Two days.

11267. Mr. *Liddell.*] Did you not find that you had an unusually good appetite on the third?—No, I did not indeed.

11268. Have you ever observed that the health of the inmates of the workhouse has been affected by that diet?—Most assuredly not; it must be well known to every one that the labourer considers that he is not satisfied until he has got what is called a belly-full, and he will go on eating *ad infinitum* almost; but I am persuaded that he has there as much as a man requires.

11269. *Chairman.*] Are the children allowed to go out of the workhouse occasionally?—The children are allowed to walk out, the boys one day, and the girls another, I think.

11270. Generally speaking, have you observed in the condition of any class of any of the inmates in the workhouse any appearance of want of health?—I think the children are remarkably healthy.

11271. With respect to the other classes, should you say that there was, arising from the confinement or insufficiency of diet, any thing which indicated a want of health?—Nothing whatever.

Henry Musgrave Musgrave, Esq., again called in; and Examined.

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11272. *Chairman.*] WILL you refer to 8228: the witness is asked, "Does the scarcity of work and the dread of having to come to the workhouse operate to induce them to accept lower wages than they otherwise would do?" and he answers, that it does, and that he is prepared to give an explanation of that; "Six married men were working for Mr. Musgrave at 1*s.* a day," and he gives their names; and then he says, "he told them, if they chose, they might come at 1*s.* a day; they did so, they had no other course to take, either to do that or starve;" have you any explanation to give of that?—I have; I was very much surprised when I heard Mr. Turner make that representation before the Committee on the 2d of May; and on the following meeting I took an opportunity of asking Mr. Turner whether he had seen the men whose names he had given, namely, Robert Cox, William Cox, William Harris, John Cox, James Hyde and Joseph Denton, whether he had really seen them picking up twitch on Mr. Musgrave's land? he said, "If you doubt my statement call them up." I naturally felt very much aggrieved when it was stated that Mr. Musgrave had given those six married men work at only 1*s.* a day; I wrote immediately to my father, and, with your permission, I will read the letter which I have in my hand; it is dated from my father's house, in Shitlington, May 3d: "Your letter reached me this morning, just as I was leaving home to attend the Ampthill bench; I was not a little surprised to learn that Mr. Turner had stated to the Poor Law Committee that I had offered half-a-dozen married men 1*s.* each a day to pick up twitch; you may take my word that I never saw, nor did your brother nor our bailiff, any one of the men Mr. Turner has named, nor have I ever offered such wages to any man in the parish, nor was there any such work as twitching being performed on any land that I farm, worth naming; you may safely contradict or defy the proof. I have always made it a rule to reward every man fairly for his labour, and I have this day made particular inquiries whether any labourer on the

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the farm is paid reduced wages, and I find that not a man has less than 9*s.* a week, and our taskers earn from 11*s.* to 13*s.* a week." Perhaps I may be allowed to state that my father farms 400 acres, 90 out of the 400 are pasture. "Turner and Crabtree went to William Weston," he is one of those that have been given in as having a place of constant work, "one of my labourers, and asked his wife what her husband receives; she told him that he always drew 10*s.* every week, and left the balance of his money towards liquidating a debt for a load of wheat, with which you know we always accommodate our men;" we let the men have wheat at the market price, which is a great accommodation to them, "and let them pay for the same by small instalments; Turner and Crabtree then insisted upon knowing how Weston lived; she replied, 'If you must know, myself and younger child have porridge for breakfast, and my husband and sons, who go to work, have bread and meat for breakfast and dinner, and a pint of strong beer; we fare well, all of us, by Mr. Musgrave employing my husband and sons;' poor Weston actually cried when he found that it had been reported so falsely, and said, 'Be assured, sir, I never saw those men,' meaning Messrs. Turner and Crabtree, 'and had I, I should have told them that I was gratefully thankful with the good and constant employment myself and sons have under you.' You will scarcely believe it when I tell you that on 400 acres, 90 of which are pasture, I have at this time 57 men and eight boys employed; they are hoeing, stocking up hedge-rows, making hedges, under-draining; in short, I am doing, as I ever have done, every thing in my power to employ all who I can find employment for or are willing to work; the same number of 57 men cannot be continued, but we keep, as you well know, always a full complement of men, and what is more, keep them on summer and winter, and not a man paid under the very best wages; in fact, I am confident that there is not a man of character in the parish of Shitlington who would not be happy to be in my employment; the cottage rents, as you well know, are paid to the day, and are very low, and the state of repair I keep them in and the gardens and land I give the labourers to set potatoes in, are highly appreciated; Weston and his two little boys earn 17*s.* a week, winter and summer."

11273. Mr. *Liddell.*] Is the writer of the letter in town?—He is in the room.

11274. *Chairman*, (to Mr. *Musgrave*, sen.)]—Are you the writer of that letter?—Yes, that is my letter.

11275. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Are the facts correctly stated in that letter?—I beg leave to say one thing, I had that information from my son; I did not see the men myself; I say that those are facts, as they came to me from my son, who went and had them from the parties themselves.

11276. What relates to yourself is true?—It is true.

11277. *Chairman.*] Were those labourers employed by you?—Weston and sons are on my farm; but I never interfere in my farming business.

11278. Were those men who were mentioned by Mr. Turner, Robert Cox, William Cox, William Harris, John Cox, James Hyde and Joseph Denton, employed by you?—No, I have never employed them; I understand, since that letter was written, that they have, one or two of them, been working on my land; one of the Cox's has been working since that letter.

11279. What is he paid?—I cannot say.

11280. Mr. *Hodges.*] Then, all that you can certify is, that, according to the best of your judgment, that is a correct statement; but of your own knowledge, you do not know that it is so?—From my own knowledge, I do not; but to the best of my belief, it is strictly correct.

11281. *Chairman*, (to Mr. *Musgrave*, jun.)]—Do you act as a magistrate in the county of Bedford?—Yes, I do.

11282. Have you acted as a magistrate for some time?—About six or seven years.

11283. Are you in the habit of acting at Ampthill?—Yes, I am.

11284. Has it been your practice, if any poor man is found gathering a few sticks to send him to the tread-mill?—I do not know what Mr. Turner means by gathering a few sticks; for stealing wood, which would come under Peel's Act, if the evidence be such as to warrant a conviction, and if the man does not pay such fine as the magistrates, after having heard the facts connected with the circumstance, think the offence warrants, the party then is committed to the House

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of Correction for a period not exceeding two months; he cannot be committed longer, under the Act, except in the case of a second offence.

11285. Do you consider the expression of "being sent to the tread-mill for gathering a few sticks" to be inaccurate, and not descriptive of your practice?—Very inaccurate indeed, and quite improper; the words of the Act are "unlawfully, break and damage, with intent to steal."

11286. In the instances that have been alluded to, of men gathering a few sticks, and being sent to the treadmill, had they injured and broken the trees so as to bring them within the Act that you allude to?—Precisely; that was the case; it is quite preposterous to imagine for a moment that a magistrate could commit a person for merely gathering a few sticks.

11287. Mr. *Hodges.*] Are offences of this nature, stealing wood, or trespassing for the purpose of stealing wood, of frequent occurrence in your part of the country?—No, I do not think so, in the Ampthill division.

11288. Are they more frequent now than they were five years back?—No, I do not think there are so many offences.

11289. Are you able to speak positively upon that point?—I can speak positively upon the point, for I have a return showing that there is a decrease in the stealing of parts of trees.

11290. What is that which you hold in your hand?—This is a return from the keeper of the new gaol at Bedford: "Sir,—I have, agreeably to your request, furnished the following statement from the book of prisoners who have been in my custody."—"Mr. Treganza wishes to know if you meant to have all who have been convicted and committed to the gaol and the old house of correction before they were sent here for labour, those in the table only apply to the new house of correction; but I think you will perfectly agree with me, that there must be a great diminution, from the several headings; for instance, the game laws, and during the last two years all convictions from the courts of quarter sessions, and assizes, and the summary convictions, have been sent to this prison, which used not to be the case, so that the two last years will give you the total number; from Easter 1832 to Easter 1833, 17; from 1833 to 1834, 23; 1834 to 1835, 21; 1835 to 1836, 30; 1836 to 1837, 36; 1837 to 1838, 35."

11291. *Chairman.*] That shows a considerable increase in that particular offence, does it not?—It does.

11292. Is that with reference to persons committed to the gaol at Bedford?—This includes persons who have been tried; he says that the number in those columns applies to convictions at the quarter sessions, and the assizes, and summarily; now I remember a case at the last assizes, where men stole some planks, and that would be called stealing wood; and the men were put upon their trial.

11293. Mr. *Hodges.*] And in addition there would be persons who were tried and not convicted?—Yes, there would; the clerk of the peace files the convictions, and from him a return can be procured.

11294. Since it appears that those offences are very greatly increased in your part of the country, is it not fairly to be attributed to a general deterioration of condition on the part of the labouring people in that country?—No, I do not think it is entirely.

11295. To what other cause can you attribute it?—I think it will be found that the persons who generally go out breaking trees and damaging fences are parties of no character, who have come out of prison, and who, for the sake of making some start in their own parish, go and steal wood, not for the purpose of taking it home to their families to provide for any domestic want, but to sell to get beer with; I have found that to be the case in many instances.

11296. Were not there people of indifferent character, and men discharged from gaol, and men fond of beer, in 1832?—Yes, certainly.

11297. Can you give any other reason besides that which you have now given, to account for that increase?—No; I hardly know to what to attribute the increase.

11298. *Chairman.*] Are there any points upon which you would wish to give the Committee any information?—There is a part of the bastardy clauses that I do not exactly approve of.

11299. Will you state your reason for not approving of them?—I think there are to be met with in every part of England, among women, persons who, up to the period

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period of their deviation from the strict paths of virtue, have borne an irreproachable character; now I would permit a person who could produce a certificate, under the hand of the resident minister of the parish, the churchwardens and six of the principal inhabitants, certifying that the party seduced, up to the period of her deviation, has borne an irreproachable character, to be examined at a special sessions, by not less than three magistrates, and if they were satisfied that her tale was true, that proceedings should issue to bring forward the person whom she states to be the father of her child; and if he were in the labouring class of society, I would give the three magistrates power to fine that person any sum of money not exceeding 20*l.*; and if he did not pay that money, I would commit him to the treadmill for any period not exceeding six months; above the rank of a labourer, I would fine him not exceeding 100*l.*; what would be the consequences? there is many a girl seduced in an unguarded moment, at the different fairs and places of entertainment that occur in rural districts; this girl in a thoughtless moment yields, and when, a year afterwards, serious consequences ensue, her seducer says, "You have got yourself into a scrape, you may do as well as you can"; she goes before the board; the remedy is farcical: there have been, since the Poor Law Act came into operation in our part of the country, only two appeals made to the quarter sessions, and the most indecent course of examination was gone into as the corroborative evidence which is required on the part of the party seduced; it has failed in both cases that came before the session. If an inquiry took place before a bench of magistrates, of not less than three, to adjudicate upon the case, the man, knowing that an exposure would ensue which would easily get wind in the county, would make arrangements with the girl and say, "If you will not give in my name or say any thing about it, I will take care and provide for you, or you may depend upon this, that I will do something to assist you from being obliged to apply to the board of guardians for relief:" or I would go even further than that; in the case of the first child, I would almost be inclined to give some portion of the money which is paid to the woman, instead of only affording her relief in the workhouse; I am speaking of persons of character, and there are such; there has been, and I fear ever will be, from the prince to the peasant, victims of seduction.

11300. Mr. *Barneby.*] If such plans were adopted, to whom should the penalties go?—I am inclined to apportion a part of it to the mother of the first child.

11301. To whom should the residue go?—It should go to the treasurer of the union towards the poor-rates.

11302. Do you not think that that would be a premium to women to make those applications, if any part was to be applied to their maintenance?—That is secondary, the allowing her to have part of the money; I would give up granting her any part of the money; I would let it be a fine. How monstrous was it under the old system, that the woman was incarcerated for 12 months' hard labour for having a bastard child.

11303. Then, on consideration, you do not think it would be advisable to apply any part of the penalty to the support of the mother?—I would give up that.

11304. And if 100*l.* were the amount of the penalty, do you think that should go to the treasurer of the union, to be applied to the whole of the district?—No; it should go to the poor-rate of the parish to which the woman belongs.

11305. Would you take the oath of the woman, without any corroborative evidence?—I would allow an examination to take place in the presence of not less than three magistrates; I think the corroborative evidence that is now required under the Act cannot take place, even in the most abandoned cases.

11306. I am not making any comparison between your plan and that which is now in existence; but would you require any corroborative evidence to the woman's statement?—No; I think if she were able to bring a certificate that up to the period of her seduction she has borne a good character, that would be sufficient.

11307. Would not that be placing the clergyman of the parish in a very disagreeable situation for young women to go to him for a certificate of their modesty?—I cannot speak to that.

11308. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Would the certificate asked of the clergyman and the respectable inhabitants, be any thing more than women are in the habit of obtaining, and men too, as testimonials of their general reputation?—No.

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11309. Would it not be a sufficient protection if the woman was allowed, without corroborative evidence, to be the witness, as the magistrates would judge for themselves whether her story was credible?—Yes, I think so.

11310. Depending upon her manner of giving her evidence and her general character?—That is my opinion.

11311. Have you any reason to know cases of bastardy, though not in your parish, that have not become questions of appeal?—Yes, many.

11312. Have you, from your observation upon the subject, any reason to believe, as far as you can form a judgment, that the circumstance of men being now protected from all liability to provide for their children, has operated as an inducement to the commission of crime?—I think it has; I do really think so.

11313. Mr. *Barneby.*] Have you turned your attention at all to the point, whether the same evidence and the same examination which is now requisite to be taken before the magistrates at quarter sessions, might not be taken before the magistrates at petty sessions, who might be enabled to make the requisite order?—I think the corroborative evidence which is now required, under the Act, defeats the protection which I wish to grant to the class of females that I have particularly alluded to.

11314. But would it not prevent the exposure which now takes place in a public court, if it took place before the magistrates at petty sessions?—I think it would be better that it should not take place at quarter sessions.

Mr. *Thomas William Overman,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *T. W. Overman.*

11315. *Chairman.*] YOU are a farmer in the Union of Ampthill?—I am.

11316. In which parish?—I reside in the parish of Maulden.

11317. Do you hold a considerable quantity of land?—Six hundred and thirty acres in that parish.

11318. How long have you farmed there?—Twenty-four years.

11319. Were you a member of the board of guardians at its original formation?—I have been from the first.

11320. Is Maulden near Ampthill?—Yes, within a mile and a half of Ampthill.

11321. Have you very much attended to the business of the board of guardians since you have been a member?—I have, nearly constantly.

11322. Are you vice-chairman of the board?—I am, and have been for the last two years.

11323. Having farmed land for some time before the law was introduced, you must be acquainted with the effects, if any, which that law has produced upon the labourers in your union generally; what have been the effects produced upon the condition and comforts of the labouring poor in the Union of Ampthill?—Much improved, they being much more in work.

11324. Is the amount of employment very much greater, do you think?—It is very much increased.

11325. Is the amount of employment by the farmers very much increased, or is it increased by accidental circumstances, such as from the railroads and other great works which have been undertaken?—It is increased by the farmers employing more men.

11326. Are you of opinion that more men are employed now in the cultivation of the soil than were employed before the Poor Law was introduced?—Many more.

11327. To what do you attribute that?—The willingness on the part of the men to work, and the ability on the part of the employers to employ them.

11328. You mean that the farmer has been enabled, by the saving that he has had the benefit of from the diminution of the rates, to employ a greater number of men?—I consider so.

11329. Do you consider that the farmers generally, in that part of the country, employ a greater number of men than formerly?—I should say certainly, from knowing the country for 24 years, and being a close observer of that, and more particularly during the last six months, from having had an opportunity of going over 13 parishes with a view to re-assess, I can speak most positively that there is more work than I have ever seen before.

11330. Have you been employed as a valuer to value and assess a great many parishes?—I have; I have been over 32,000 acres within the last six months.

11331. But speaking of that part of the country which has been for some time under your observation, and which you knew familiarly before the new Poor Law was

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was introduced; should you say, that the amount of employment upon the soil was much increased?—Very much.

11332. Has that been the case for some time?—Within the last two years more particularly; within the last three years there has been an increase, but more particularly within the last two years.

11333. Has that increase been attended with any perceptible difference in the cultivation of the ground?—Certainly, even to common observers.

11334. Speaking as a practical farmer, well acquainted with the farming in that part of the country, speaking of your own neighbourhood and of your own parish, and of that which comes under your own immediate observation, do you undertake to say that you observe a difference in the cultivation of the ground?—To a very great extent.

11335. Is it that the mode of cultivation has changed, or that a greater number of persons have been employed upon the same description of work?—A greater number of people are employed upon the farms; I see more men at work.

11336. Has there been more draining?—Yes.

11337. Is it true that a change has taken place in the cultivation of wheat in your part of the country, and that it is more the practice to set wheat than formerly?—No, I do not think that at all; I do not think the setting of wheat has increased.

11338. Do you observe, in your own parish of Maulden, or in any of those parishes with which you may be acquainted, that the able-bodied labourers of good character have a difficulty in finding employment?—No, they have not; a man who is willing to get a day's work can easily get it.

11339. Do you observe in your own parish many men who are unable to obtain employment?—I do not.

11340. Before the introduction of the law, what was the condition of the same class of people?—A considerable number of people were kept wholly by the parish.

11341. How were they employed?—Partly standing about in different places; sometimes they were set to work at the sand-hill; but it was difficult to keep them to work; in fact, they would not work.

11342. The work which they did was of very little value?—It was valueless.

11343. And the occupation was not an occupation of industry?—It was not, but the contrary.

11344. With regard to the remuneration of the labourers, has there been any alteration in that respect?—There has been an increase; within the last three years wages have advanced.

11345. Do you mean by that, daily wages?—Yes; in 1834, 8*s.* a week was generally given, and I believe in some few instances 7*s.*; now it is 9*s.*, the common wages of the country.

11346. You yourself have farmed in that parish for some time; what were you in the habit of giving your labourers in 1832, 1833 and 1834?—In 1832 it was 9*s.* a week, or 10*s.*; wheat was high, then it came down very much, and in 1834 wheat was exceedingly low, very little more than 5*s.* a bushel.

11347. What wages were you giving at that time?—Eight shillings, which would not have been continued, only the farmers knew that wheat could not continue to be sold at 5*s.* a bushel; had it continued so the next year, I have no doubt that wages would have been down to 1*s.* a day.

11348. What are wages now?—One shilling and sixpence a day for day-work.

11349. Is that what you give your own labourers?—Yes, when they work by the day.

11350. Is there much task-work in your part of the country?—A considerable deal, and most farmers put all they can upon task-work.

11351. What are the principal occupations at which they are employed?—Hedging, ditching, draining and thrashing, filling mould-cart and muck-cart; and we do all by the load.

11352. Is it more the practice of the farmers to give task-work now than formerly?—It is.

11353. Do you observe that the prices of the task-work have advanced within the last few years?—I do not think task-work has increased so much, because it never decreased so much.

11354. Have you observed that it has decreased latterly?—Certainly not.

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11355. It has been stated that the wages paid for task-work for thrashing, bean-setting, and one or two other particulars, have fallen; have you observed that the price of task-work has fallen?—It has fallen, but why? the corn has cast so much better in the last two years; I will give an instance: a neighbour of mine is giving 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a load for thrashing wheat, and in another barn the man has 2 *s.* 6 *d.*; but the man having 1 *s.* 6*d.* can earn more than the other at 2 *s.* 6*d.*

11356. Does that depend upon the condition in which the wheat is housed?—Yes, and the different kind of wheat; one piece of land grows more straw than another.

11357. Then, as far as tharshing of corn is concerned, you believe the price for thrashing is regulated by the yield of the wheat?—Yes, and the quantity of straw.

11358. So that it will sometimes happen that with a lower nominal amount of wages, a man will earn more than another with a higher nominal amount of wages?—Yes; bean-setting this year was certainly lower than other years; but why? land this year has been so pulverized by the frost, that it was a better job for a man at 4 *s.* than it was last year at 7 *s.*

11359. Mr. *Liddell.*] The land worked so much lighter?—Yes; allusion was made to setting beans by the bushel; I certainly never heard of any other instance of that sort; it is most unusual to do it in that way; no one but bunglers would do it, because it is the interest of the man to get rid of the beans, for the more bushels he sets to the acre the more he gets.

11360. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Have you the means of knowing, from the quantity of work a man does, whether he obtains fair wages or not?—Yes.

11361. Has it ever occurred to you, that by this reduced rate of task-work injustice was done to the labourers?—None whatever, the man's earnings per week will make as much, and in many instances more than formerly.

11362. Mr. *Liddell.*] You have stated that there is a decided increase of employment in the last three years; is there any increase of wages?—I could give instances where farmers have paid considerably more for labour in the year upon several different farms.

11363. That is from having employed more labourers?—There is more money spent upon the farms, therefore I presume that there is more labour; a good deal will depend upon the means of the farmer; if the farmer's income is small, of course his outlay must be small; in 1832 when I state 9 *s.* as the wages, corn was much dearer, and the farmers had the ability to give good wages.

11364. Mr. *Hodges.*] In 1832, when the wages were at 10 *s.*, did the labourers employed receive any relief from the parish?—Not the men in constant work, or hardly ever; it was a rare instance.

11365. *Chairman.*] Did they before that period?—In some few parishes they did, but the men who received head-money were men principally who were not in constant work.

11366. Mr. *Hodges.*] Could a man and six children subsist themselves upon 10 *s.* a week?—They did, and they lived very well.

11367. Without any assistance from the parish?—Yes.

11368. Mr. *Walker.*] Are the Committee to infer that wages are much the same as they were, but that there is a great deal more employment?—Yes, there is an advance of 1 *s.* a week in task-work.

11369. As compared with 1833, there is a great deal more labour at present?—Yes.

11370. *Chairman.*] There has been a great saving in the rates?—Yes.

11371. That has gone to the relief of the occupiers of the soil; do you believe that they have, generally, in your neighbourhood, applied any great part of that saving in giving additional employment to the labourers?—I do.

11372. Have you any statement which can substantiate that opinion?—Yes, I wrote from this Committee-room, on the 22d March, after observing the line of examination, to 11 different farmers in the union; and here are their answers.

11373. Can you undertake to say that those are the answers that you received from the farmers?—I can.

11374. Do you know the farmers?—Yes; the first is from Mr. Lines of Shitlington; he says, "Sir, I am sorry to say I cannot give you a correct account of my last three years' labour on my farm; as I have a great many day-labourers which I do not book, but, according to my weekly payments, as near as I can judge,

judge, it has cost me 800*l.* per year at least; as to the condition of the poor, I have lived in this parish 30 years and never knew the poor so well satisfied." Then again I wrote to Mr. Lines to ask him if he could give me a little more detail, and here is a letter that I received afterwards: "Sir, I pay a great deal more for labour than I did three years back; I likewise pay more for task-work and employ more men; I have 41 labourers on my farm; they work better, and are a great deal more contented than they were before; I could not go to bed safe at night without having a man to watch, but now we have no depredations committed, and Shitlington is not like the same place." Another is from Mr. Harradine of Hawnes: "Dear sir, I received your letter this afternoon, (this is March 24th) and will answer it according to the best of my judgment; my able-bodied men, from 20 years old and upwards, I am giving one-third of them 10*s.* the other 12*s.* and the other 9*s.* per week during the winter season; the month of hay-time, those that work by the piece, 16*s.* and those by the day, 12*s.* per week, and four pints of ale in a day; the month of harvest I give the men 1*l.* per week, boys of 16 years old, 5*s.*, of 13 years, 2*s.* 6*d.*, of 12 years, 2*s.*, of 10 years, 1*s.* 6*d.*; I raise their wages in the months of hay-time and harvest, in proportion as I do the men's; this is what I have been paying for the three last years; I likewise give them a pint of milk and as much small beer as they please to have, the whole of the year; I also employ them all the year, so that they lose no time from the unfavourableness of the weather, and which, I believe, is a general custom throughout the parish; the poor, I believe, have been much better off for the last two or three years than they were previous to that time; there seems to be no distress whatever; the old and infirm people, I believe, are now receiving more money than they were four years ago." The next is from Mr. Crouch, of Clophill, one of our best farmers: "In answer to your note, I have taken out what I have paid for the three years, from April 1834 to 1835, 419*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*; 1835 to 1836, 425*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*; and from 1836 to 1837, 440*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* The land in my occupation is about 370 acres. I think you are in possession of the cases that Turner has made out." Then he refers to those cases; but I will not read that. Another is from Mr. Eve, of Silsoe: "Agreeably to your request, I forward you the annual amount paid by me for labour upon a farm of 255 acres, partly grass, in the years 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, ending December. In the year 1834, 360*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*; 1835, 372*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; 1836, 375*l.* 18*s.*; 1837, 383*l.* 3*s.*" Now I should remark, that those two last gentlemen were men that always employed an immense deal of labour, whose farms were up to the mark before, who did not want any additional labour, but they still have some. The next is from Mr. Squires, of Silsoe; he only gives the rate of wages per week: "According to your request, I have sent you a statement of weekly wages paid by me, as follows; also, the average price I made of my wheat. In the year 1834, 8*s.* per week; 1835, 8*s.* per week; 1836, 9*s.* per week; 1837, 9*s.* and 10*s.* per week. Price of wheat, 1834, 29*s.* per load; 1835, 25*s.* 6*d.*; 1836, 30*s.*; 1837, 36*s.* per load."

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11375. Mr. *Hodges.*] Then the increase of wages in all those cases does not appear to be more than correspondent with the price of wheat?—They have advanced, because I consider that in 1834 wages were high; no farmers could have continued paying wages of 9*s.* per week, with the wheat at 5*s.* a bushel.

11376. Do not you believe that the rise has been inevitable, in consequence of the rise in the price of wheat?—Wheat is not the only thing the farm produces; the farmer must look to the general production of his farm; in 1834 barley was considerably higher than it was in 1837; but if you take barley and wheat together in 1837, I think the capability of the farmers to employ men in 1837 is not so great as it was in 1834.

11377. Is not meat higher?—I think not. The next is from Mr. Bennett, of Beckerings Park: "Agreeably to your request, I have forwarded you the amount of labour on the farm I occupy, being 467 acres, partly grass and partly arable, for the last six years. The year ending December 1832, 594*l.*; 1833, 610*l.*; 1834, 590*l.*; 1835, 671*l.*; 1836, 682*l.*; 1837, 699*l.* Please to observe, that I give my men milk in the morning, and small beer all the year, and ale in hay-time and harvest, which would amount to about 100*l.* per year more. The amount of extra labour for the last three years is more considerable than the saving in the poor-rates for that time."

11378. Mr. *Walker.*] In what parish is that?—Partly in the parish of Steppingley, and partly in the parish of Ridgmount.

11379. Mr. *Hodges.*] If Mr. Bennett's statement is true, that the amount of labour paid by him is greater than the reduction in the rate, unless he is farming

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at a loss, can you account for that on any other principle than that of an increase in the prices, or the amount of the produce?—Decidedly, there is an increase in the amount of the produce, and he has been thereby in a situation to meet any little outlay of money.

11380. You are aware that there has been an increase in the amount?—There has, that is undoubted; it is apparent, because we have been able to supply England with corn, without foreign aid, so that it is clear.

11381. *Chairman.*] Speaking of your own neighbourhood, is there an increase?—There is an increase, it is visible to all.

11382. Mr. *Liddell.*] You have stated that you resided for some time in this neighbourhood, and you have been, perhaps, acquainted with this particular farm of Mr. Bennett's, for some time?—I have.

11383. Can you speak to a decided improvement in the culture and amount of produce yielded by the farm?—I can.

11384. Within the last few years?—I can; I have known this farm for some years.

11385. And you attribute that improvement in culture, and the increase of produce, to the greater amount of capital and labour that has been laid out upon it?—Yes.

11386. Mr. *Freshfield.*] This is part of the Duke of Bedford's estate, is it not;—Yes.

11387. Was it not always in a good state?—Not all; this farm was in a bad state when Mr. Bennett took it.

11388. The improvement would be more apparent if the farm was in a bad state before?—Yes.

11389. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you consider that a farmer has greater inducement to expend capital upon his land at the present time than he had a few years ago?—Decidedly; he has a security for it; there is a willingness on the part of the men to work; and he has the capital to employ, and that capital, if he employed it, and looked after his farm as a man ought to do, the result of that must be beneficial to the farmer.

11390. You have no hesitation in attributing some of that good effect to the change which has taken place in the mode of administering relief to the poor?—I have not; I will give an instance: I could not have left my business as I have been obliged to do since the 24th of March, the most important time of the year to farmers, if the men had not worked better than they formerly did; I was very near, in 1834, not re-hiring my farm, I found so much trouble in getting my men to work, it came to that, there was that indifference about work; a man could get the money for lying idle, and it was become so general that many people of capital were thinking of going out of the business; I was as near as possible, within two days, of taking a business in Birmingham, and giving up farming; I have had men say to me, "Whether we work or not we know you must pay us;" and I came to the determination of going out of the business as soon as possible.

11391. *Chairman.*] Have you found any material alteration in the conduct of the labourers since the introduction of the new law?—I have, the greatest.

11392. Be so good as to describe it?—The willingness on the part of the men to work; I have left my business for the last month to a young man 20 years of age, and when I have occasionally gone home he has said, "Father, I have had no trouble with the men; every man is obliging;" and I have men with me that, till the last four years, never did a stroke of work for years, but lay idle.

11393. Was it the case that the men, before the alteration of the law, were able, upon stating to the overseer of the parish that they could not get work, at once to obtain weekly relief?—It used to be the case; they used to go to the overseer and say that they could not get work.

11394. Was it a claim upon the parochial fund if a man stated that he could not get work?—It was.

11395. Were any means taken to ascertain whether they could obtain work or not?—If they could it was of little use; I have taken men myself before the magistrate for neglecting work, and I have been told by the magistrate that the men must not starve.

11396. The magistrates have intimated to you that the men must receive relief from the parochial fund?—Yes.

11397. Have you been in the habit of relieving them?—Yes, and I have had cases where I have taken men before the magistrates for neglect of work; I have satisfied

satisfied the magistrates that the men were in fault, from neglecting the work; the men have had a lecture from the magistrate, and I have been ordered to pay them for a day's work; that I have had many times. Mr. *T.W. Overman.* 22 May 1838.

11398. Have you any other letter to read, of any farmer?—Yes, from the parish of Marston; Mr. Thomas Bennett: "I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 23d inst.; but I regret to say that I did not receive yours until Saturday night at nine o'clock; therefore it was quite impossible that I could get the desired information for you at so short a notice; and I very much question whether one out of four keep such accounts as to be able to give the information required; I can only say, as regards myself, that I have employed more labour and given increased wages; instead of 9*s.* I have given them 10*s.* per week, which, with the additional labour, has increased my yearly expenditure 40*l.*, upon 160 acres arable and 100 acres of pasture; I believe every farmer has employed more labour and generally paid better wages; there are exceptions, but the thing is self-evident; instead of having 30 or 40, and sometimes, I might say 60, men out of employ, I could not this day get a man or boy without going out of the parish for one; all have employment." This is the parish in which they used to pay 2,100*l.* a year for poor-rates; they have saved 1,500*l.*; they are paying under 700*l.* now. I have another letter, from Mr. Francis, of Houghton-Conquest; that used to be one of our worst parishes in the county, where every crime, almost, has been committed: "In answer to yours of the 23d, from the Committee-room, I should be happy to give you any information which might fall to my recollection, not touching too much upon private affairs; but I assure you that I have employed more labour, and see it to be an every-day practice. My expense of labour, from 1834 to 1837, has increased 50*l.* or 60*l.* a year, and my poor-rate decreased 25*l.*, and that upon a farm of 200 acres of land, being one-third grass land. Before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, I recollect the vast quantities of labourers lying on the road-side in idleness, paid by the overseer, used to frequent the ale-houses and beer-shops in the evening, and from thence to night-poaching, setting fire, cutting and maiming of cattle and such like depredations. All that appears to be abated; the farmer and labourer having more confidence in each other than ever known by the present generation, and I hear of no one complaining but ale-house and beer-shop keepers; I recollect in 1834 hearing an agent complaining of the difficulty in getting cottage-rents; I am well-informed in 1837 he has no difficulty."

11399. Mr. *Liddell.*] From that it would appear that those offences which formerly disgraced that county have now nearly ceased?—They have.

11400. Do you know, of your own knowledge, that they have now nearly ceased?—I do.

11401. Do the returns of crime from that district prove that fact?—Taking them generally, I should say they do; I am treasurer of an association for the prosecution of sheep-stealers, and since October 1837 I have yet had no demand made upon me for any loss; it is one of the rules that notice must be given to me, as the treasurer; I have not received one notice of the loss of any sheep belonging to our association.

11402. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do you happen to know whether that is the case with regard to other people's sheep besides those belonging to the association?—I do not; we have 36 members in the neighbourhood of Ampthill.

11403. *Chairman.*] What was the state of sheep-stealing before the new law?—It was such that it was requisite to form an association five or six years ago.

11404. The practice of sheep-stealing was so prevalent, as to induce you to form an association?—Yes, in October last I paid for six or seven sheep lost prior to that time.

11405. And that has been diminishing since?—Yes.

11406. Mr. *Liddell.*] Did those offences take place in the winter, during the cessation of employment, or in the summer time?—In winter; but I have every reason to believe that one party stole all those sheep; he came from London; in fact, since one man has been taken up and transported, we have lost no sheep; and I have no doubt that the same gang had them all.

11407. The fact of there being no sheep lost since October 1837, appears, then, rather to be accounted for, by the gang having been discovered and dispersed, than by any general improvement of the population?—Then I must presume that as the poor people did not steal the sheep before, they do not now.

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11408. *Chairman.*] The crime of sheep-stealing is not one that has been increasing since the introduction of the law?—Decidedly not, in my opinion.

11409. Mr. *Hodges.*] Are you a native of that part of the country?—No, I am a native of Norfolk; I have another letter from Flitwick, from Mr. Negus: "In answer to your letter, I have stated the amount of wages paid to able-bodied labourers by me in 1834 was, out-door work 8*s.* a week; in-door work, thrashing, 9*s.* per week; the same in 1835; and in 1836, 9*s.* per week, and 10*s.* when not at piece-work, and then the earnings were more, up to 1837;" the next is from Mr. Trustram, of Higham-Gobion: "With pleasure I send you a statement of wages paid to my day-labourers, and which has been the usual pay of the farmers in the different parishes in the neighbourhood for the years 1834 to 1837, inclusive; for the whole of the year 1834, 8*s.* per week, with milk and small beer, considered worth 1*s.* per week more; from January 1835 to December 1835, 8*s.*, with ditto; from December 1835 to April 1836, 7*s.*, with ditto; from April 1836 to November 1836, 8*s.* with ditto; from November 1836 to the end of the year 1837, and up to the present time, 9*s.*, with ditto; the labourers who work by the piece can earn upon an average 1*s.* 6*d.* per week more than the day-labourers; most of the day-labourers have an opportunity of earning something more during the time of setting and hoeing corn, &c.; the above statement does not include the wages for harvest and hay-time; I do not consider that the price for labour has increased since the passing of the new Poor Law, where the farmer was desirous of giving a fair remuneration for it; but a very great benefit has arisen where the farmer depended upon the surplus labourers to have his work done at a cheaper rate (any thing he liked to offer), and the pay to be made up at the end of the week by the overseer; also where the farmer only employed them on the fine days, and turned them away for a few wet ones, and the overseer to make up for the lost days; having a few years back lived in a populous parish and served the office of churchwarden for some years, and having constantly attended the weekly meetings for the relief of the poor, I have frequently witnessed the above; it was better for the labourer to live in idleness, to work two or three days in the week, than to have a constant place where he must work all the week." This gentleman lived at Shitlington two or three years back; that is the large parish he speaks of. Another letter is from Mr. Green, of Milbrook: "Dear sir, In compliance with your request, I send you a statement of wages paid to able-bodied men, as follows: 1834, from 8*s.* to 10*s.* per week; 1835, 7*s.* to 8*s.*; 1836, 8*s.* to 9*s.*; 1837, 9*s.* to 10*s.*" I have a letter from Mr. Swaffield; he says, "With respect to task-work generally, I think, comparing the prices now given with any former period, for thrashing by the quarter or load, draining by the score, &c. &c., is no criterion as to the earnings of the men, as it entirely depends upon the yielding of the corn, and the nature of the soil, in which the draining is done; however, as others may be of a different opinion, I will state the prices I have been giving during the winter just past. For thrashing wheat, 2*s.* 2*d.* and 2*s.* 3*d.* per load; barley, 2*s.* 2*d.*, 2*s.* 3*d.* and 2*s.* 9*d.* per quarter; beans, 1*s.* per load; whereas in the winter 1833-34, I gave 2*s.* for wheat and 2*s.* 3*d.* for barley (beans none); I have not done any draining this year, but there has been much done on the estates with which I am concerned, and I find the prices vary from 2*s.* to 4*s.* 10*d.* per score pole, and my decided opinion is, that the average earning for draining is 2*s.* 3*d.* per day, without working over hours; good hands will earn 2*s.* 6*d.*; whereas, others at the same work would earn only 2*s.* There is much more task-work done now than there used to be, and generally in the district where I live the men are better paid for it. The wages and employment of single men have very much increased, and I am confident, in this neighbourhood, that in consequence thereof improvident marriages have decreased to a great extent. Previous to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act most of the single men were on the roads or in the gravel-pits on parish pay, of from 3*s.* to 5*s.* per week, doing little or nothing, and the system of giving head-money to those who had families gave a direct bonus to them for getting married. There is a greater number of boys employed now than there were four or five years ago; at the former period their parents would rather encourage them in idleness than send them to work, because they received so much per head from the overseer, which was taken off by him if the boy were employed. There are by far a greater number of labourers employed now than there used to be, and I do most confidently assert that there is a much better feeling between the men and their employers than at any former period during the 14 years I have been a resident

resident in the county of Bedford." Those are the eleven letters which I received in answer to my circulars. Mr. T. W. Overman.

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11410. Mr. *Walker.*] You stated that Mr. Eve occupied a farm in the parish of Silsoe; it appears he paid wages in the year 1834, to the amount of 360*l.*—He did.

11411. Can you say what his poor-rate was in that year?—The poor-rates have never been high in Silsoe; it was 409*l.* in 1834, and in March 1838 it was 274*l.* 16*s.*

11412. It appears that the wages paid by Mr. Eve in 1834, are 360*l.*; had head-money ceased to be paid then?—I do not think they ever paid head-money in Silsoe.

11413. Mr. *Hodges.*] Did they give no out-door relief?—There were very rarely any men out of work at all in Silsoe, and they hardly ever relieved any able-bodied; if a man in Silsoe was ill he had relief, but I do not think any were out of work in 1834.

11414. *Chairman.*] Supposing a man had a numerous family in Silsoe, had he relief from the parish?—No.

11415. Mr. *Hodges.*] In the event of a cessation of work had he relief?—If he was out of work he had relief from the parish in 1834, but that was very rarely the case.

11416. But the weather could not be favourable in Silsoe and unfavourable to all the rest of the world; during those interruptions which would be common at Silsoe, as well as at other parts, what was the practice with respect to the able-bodied?—I do not think the farmers in Silsoe would turn a man off in bad weather.

11417. Mr. *Langdale.*] And, in fact, the man who was in work, however large his family, received no assistance from the parish in aid of his wages?—He did not, but it depended upon his good conduct; and this parish was a well-conducted parish.

11418. Mr. *Hodges.*] If that was the case, and there was no abuse, how has the saving been effected?—Unless I went over the books I could not tell; most likely there had been abuse, or there would not have been that saving.

11419. Mr. *Walker.*] Was there a workhouse in the parish?—There was a workhouse.

11420. Were there many paupers in it?—There were a few paupers, but some men used to have money and be kept by the parish that worked for the farmers in the parish; that I do know, for I have seen it myself; a few old men.

11421. *Chairman.*] You state that there is a greater security for property since the alteration of the law; do you feel that yourself with regard to your own property?—I do.

11422. Have you, besides being treasurer of an association for the purpose of prosecuting sheep-stealers, any thing to do with any other society for the protection of property?—I have; in 1834 our district was in that unsettled state, that, particularly in the parish of Houghton, to which I alluded, stock was injured; a farmer there lost two or three horses, and as many cows, from their being cut just above the hock; in fact, there were two farmers; it was traced, and one man was punished for it, but that man resided in Ampthill, and was in work at the time; he went down to Houghton and committed that offence; it was resolved to form a society for the protection of stock, with which I am connected now; and since we have established it we have not had one single call upon us.

11423. That would be an indication that the crime in the neighbourhood had not increased?—It would.

11424. Have you any statement to make with regard to savings banks or benefit societies?—Yes; being deeply interested in the benefit of the labourers, and knowing that the well-being of the labourers intimately concerns us (for it is the lower orders that are the consumers of our produce), I was anxious to ascertain whether there was a saving by the labourers in the neighbourhood; I applied to the gentleman who keeps the savings bank at Ampthill, and he gives me this most extraordinary account; he gives an account of the increase of deposits in the years 1835, 1836 and 1837: in 1835 there were 11,315*l.* in the bank; in the year 1836, 11,544*l.*, being an increase of 229*l.* upon 1835; in 1837, 12,941*l.*, being an increase of 1,397*l.* from the year 1836; the number of friendly societies which deposited money in that savings bank, was, in 1835, nine.

Mr. T.W.Overman. 22 May 1838.

11425. Are those friendly societies formed in the immediate neighbourhood? —They are; in the year 1836, 9; in the year 1837, 22.

11426. State the sum deposited by those friendly societies?—The deposit in 1835 was 546*l.*; in the year 1836, 653*l.*; in the year 1837, 1,180*l.* was deposited.

11427. Who are the principal subscribers to those friendly societies and benefit clubs, so far as you know?—The poor men are subscribers to the benefit societies.

11428. What class of poor men?—The labouring men.

11429. Do you believe that this great increase of deposits in the savings bank of Ampthill, from the friendly societies, arises from the labouring men principally? —I asked that question of the manager of the bank; and his answer was, "From the lower order." I asked whether it was from the small tradesmen; and he said, "No; from the lower order;" these were the principal depositers in his savings bank.

11430. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do you mean servants in places?—No; he said labouring people altogether, taking the lower orders altogether.

11431. Mr. *Langdale.*] Did you understand that he meant the agricultural people principally?—Yes.

11432. Mr. *Walker.*] To what do you attribute the extraordinary increase in the years 1836 and 1837?—To the provident habits of the people.

11433. Rather than any increased means?—And I should add this; I see, in going through the parishes, all the children at work, plaiting; four years back you would find them running about and doing nothing; the earnings of the whole family are much greater than they have been for years, since I have been connected with Ampthill.

11434. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do you imagine that to be an increase to the resources of the labourer, as it would at first sight appear; upon this ground, if children are employed upon out-door work, as you describe them to be, do not they require more substantial clothing, and wear it out faster, and thereby cause a greater expense to their parents?—No doubt of it.

11435. And therefore it would not be safe to consider the whole amount of earnings as so much gained by the family?—Here is proof positive of the actual earnings; I find the children better clad.

11436. But then that clothing is owing to their own earnings?—Most likely the earnings of the family.

11437. Mr. *Langdale.*] But their employment is principally in plaiting? —Yes.

11438. Mr. *Hodges.*] Had you known that part of the country prior to 24 years age, that was the year before the Peace?—No.

11439. What was the condition of that part of the country when you first came into it?—I found the labourers much more willing to work than they were afterwards.

11440. But the old law prevailed at that time?—Not to that extent; there was not the same quantity of men; there has been a great increase of population in the last 24 years.

11441. How have you ascertained that?—Because the young men whom I employ were not born then; we have an increase in our parish of 35 a year out of 1,300 inhabitants.

11442. Mr. *Langdale.*] Did not the system of paying rates in aid of wages gradually increase from that time?—It did.

11443. Mr. *Hodges.*] When you were in Norfolk, can you recollect at any time the children of the labouring people being taken into the houses of farmers as servants?—Not to any great extent, in the latter part of the time.

11444. At any time within your memory?—Yes, I certainly recollect my father keeping servants in the house.

11445. Does that system at all prevail now in any part that you are acquainted with?—I should think not, for the very best of reasons: it was utterly impossible to keep any men in order when they could get money from the parish officers; the trouble was so great that no master would bother himself with it.

11446. But, under the improved state of things and the improved morality of the country, and the more orderly habits which you have described to prevail, those objections would entirely cease; and if they do cease, have you observed any disposition to return to that state of things?—I have got a young man in my house.

house who has lived with me for three years; but before I could not keep them for one year.

11447. Is the quantity of land that you occupy now equal to what your father occupied?—Yes, about the same.

11448. How many servants did your father keep?—Three or four.

11449. How many do you keep?—One.

11450. Is that in the same proportion as the other farmers in the neighbourhood?—Many do not keep one.

11451. Mr. *Langdale.*] Do I understand you to say, that in that neighbourhood the farmers never take yearly servants?—Very rarely; if they do, they give them board-wages, to board themselves.

11452. Do not you employ boys to plough and to harrow on your farms?—Yes.

11453. Do not you hire those boys by the year?—No; if they are hired, they have so much wages and so much board-wages, and they are boarded by their friends; that is the system in Norfolk too.

11454. *Chairman.*] Have you observed that the alteration in the law of settlement has made any alteration in that respect?—Yes, it has induced people to keep servants; I should not have kept my man, but for that; and I got two boys places the year after, the sons of my labourers.

11455. Was there not an apprehension formerly on the mind of the farmer, that by the yearly hiring of servants, he might bring an incumbrance upon the parish?—Yes, and many a master parted with a man, I have no doubt, if he suited him, rather than hire him, on account of that law.

11456. Mr. *Langdale.*] Did you adopt the practice, in that part of the country, of avoiding the settlement by hiring them a little after the year?—They used to do that.

11457. Mr. *Hodges.*] Are you not of opinion that if there be that better understanding now, which has been described, between the master and the men, and that great cordiality between the labourers generally and the farmers, that if that former system could be revived, it would not only strengthen their good understanding, but entirely remove all which has been termed the severity of this new law?—I have no idea that the alteration of the law will ever induce farmers to take servants into their houses, to any extent, again.

11458. Will you give your reason for thinking so?—There are many people who now farm, who are men of property, who farm for investment of capital; and they will not have men in the house with the interference of maid-servants; the most troublesome thing any man can have, is to have men-servants in the house, to any extent.

11459. But does not that apply to the large capitalists, to whom the parish would naturally look for the employment of married men and others in their situation, rather than to farmers of smaller capital, to whom it would be an object to have their labour at a cheaper rate, which they evidently would have, provided they kept them in their houses?—It would become a question,—would it be cheaper?

11460. Is it not clear, that when food is cheap it would be better policy for the smaller class of farmers to take servants into their houses?—No, I do not think it would.

11461. Mr. *Langdale.*] Do not you think that the habitual hiring of young men in the house by the year, and keeping them in the house, would be a great means of preventing early marriages, and would also have the effect of bringing up those young men in good moral habits?—I do.

11462. And that therefore it would be a great benefit to the community at large?—I admit it.

11463. And, of course, would be a benefit to the farmers, or larger occupiers, as forming a part of the community interested in the good conduct of the labouring classes?—Yes.

11464. Do not you think that that should be a strong inducement, on the part of occupiers, to encourage that mode of hiring servants?—I hardly know how to answer that question. Before answering that, I would just say, we used, many of us, to board men for the harvest month, and the men found so much fault that it got out of use; and the men now say they would rather have the money and board themselves, because they think they can lay that money out to better advantage than the farmers could. They used to give 2*l.* a month and board the men.

Mr. *T.W. Overman.*

22 May 1838.

11465. That applies to servants hired for the harvest; would it apply equally to servants employed by the year?—I think it would apply to the others.

11466. My question has not reference to the married labourers, but to the single men; you still think that the inconvenience of having them in the house would more than counterbalance the advantage that you would derive, along with the rest of the parish, from the better conduct of the labourers?—I do.

11467. Mr. *Hodges.*] Should you recommend that; or are you of opinion that a return to that system would not be very desirable?—I do not mean to say that it would not be desirable.

11468. You have admitted that it would tend to keep in check the increase of population?—I have no doubt of it.

11469. Do you think that for a permanency the terror of the workhouse system will produce the same beneficial effects upon the mind of the labourer as the benevolent system of retaining servants in the houses?—I will not say "the terror of the workhouse system;" I will put it to the better feeling of the people, I mean the man's natural good feeling; the man will begin to think better.

11470. Then your opinion is, that those workhouses may be dispensed with?—I do not think they will be used to the extent that many people think.

11471. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Is the change in not keeping in-door servants more the result of an alteration in the state of society than of any calculation as to the advantage or disadvantage of the practice?—It is so.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

In compliance with an Order of the Select Committee of The House of Commons on the Poor Law Amendment Act, made the 22d day of May 1838, I certify that the number of Summary Convictions which have been made by the Magistrates of the County of Bedford, within the Union of Ampthill, for stealing wood, and returned to me to be filed at Quarter Sessions in the following years, are as hereunder mentioned, including breaking and stealing dead hedges and pales, fences, and cutting or breaking or damaging live hedges, underwood and trees growing, with intent to steal.

In the year	1832	9
„	1833	14
„	1834	13
„	1835	12
„	1836	28
„	1837	25
„	1838	3
	Total	104

Wood Pearse,
Clerk of the Peace.

THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*,
22 *May* 1838.